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Beltran, Astros even
series; Boston
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Astros' Carlos Beltran hits a homer in his fifth-straight game.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2004

50¢

Voting starts in Fla.; Bush inches up in polls

Some problems emerge in early balloting in Sunshine State Page 9

The hazards of the convoy

Attention turns to convoys and vehicle safety following the refusal of up to 19 soldiers to drive a reportedly unsafe route in Iraq

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Soldiers from the 2nd Forward Support Battalion reach the end of an exhausting three-day convoy in August to their new home in Iraq. Convoys have been targeted by insurgent militants with improvised explosive devices. A platoon from the 343rd Quartermaster Company recently refused to conduct a mission they said was too dangerous.

PHOTO BY SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Station Island ferry crash: The National Transportation Safety Board delayed its release of information about the Staten Island ferry crash on Monday, saying criminal prosecutors need more time to review the information.

The NTSB's last-minute announcement hinted at some degree of miscommunication between the federal agencies investigating the accident.

The NTSB investigates major accidents in order to make recommendations to make transportation systems safer.

Hurricane Jeanne costs \$93M: St. Paul Travelers Cos. said on Monday that it expects \$93 million in losses from Hurricane Jeanne after taxes and reinsurance, bringing its total losses from the four Florida hurricanes to \$402 million.

The loss from Jeanne includes \$26 million for commercial property, \$44 million for specialty lines, and \$23 million for personal lines.

Earlier this month the company said it lost an estimated \$94 million in hurricane Ivan, \$140 million from Hurricane Charley, and \$75 million because of Frances.

War on terrorism

Businessman extradition: German authorities on Saturday said they were awaiting a formal request from Spain to extradite a Syrian-German businessman suspected of being a key al-Qaida figure.

Mamoun Darkazani, 46, was taken into custody in Hamburg on Friday under a Spanish warrant.

Spanish authorities allege that Darkazani, who can be seen in a 1999 video at a wedding with some of the Sept. 11, 2001, hijackers, was "the permanent contact person and assistant of Osama bin Laden in Germany," according to a statement from Hamburg authorities. He is accused of having given logistical and financial support to the network in Spain, Germany and Britain since 1997.

World

Journalists to receive awards: The Spanish newspaper El Mundo is giving journalism awards to U.S. investigative reporter Seymour Hersh and Mariane Pearl, widow of slain Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl.

Hersh, 67, won an award created in memory of Julio Fuentes and Julio Anguila Parado, two El Mundo war correspondents who were killed in Afghanistan and Iraq, respectively.

The awards were announced by a jury in September, and Hersh and Pearl were to receive them in person at a ceremony Monday.

More weapons seized: French police using information from raids that netted the suspected leader of the Basque separatist



Controlling wildfire: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protections employee Wurb Stampfli surveys the destroyed CDF Berryessa Lookout Tower near Guinda, Calif., on Thursday. Hand crews and air tankers continued working to encircle a wildfire near Lake Berryessa in the remote terrain northeast of San Francisco as a rainstorm helped firefighters gain control. Full containment of the blaze was not expected for another two days.

group ETA and a huge arms cache have found more weapons in hideouts allegedly kept by the group, Spanish and French officials said Monday.

The new finds came Sunday night in the towns of Saint Pierre de Iruabe and Urrugne in the Basque region of southwestern France, the officials said.

A regional French police official said the announcement of the additional weapons was simply a full accounting of caches that French and Spanish police detected on Oct. 3.

China, N. Korea talks: North Korea's No. 2 leader met his counterpart Monday in Beijing in a visit that Chinese leaders are expected to use to press Pyongyang to resume stalled six-nation talks on the dispute over its nuclear program.

Kim Yong Nam of North Korea was told by Wu Bangguo of China that "keeping the momentum of the nuclear talks and promoting the solution of the problem is the common wish of the international community."

State television showed the two sitting in a meeting room at the Great Hall of the People, the seat of China's legislature. Each was flanked by officials from their country.

Cleric to stand trial: Jailed cleric Abu Bakar Bashir will go on trial next week accused of involvement in the deadly bomb attacks on the island of Bali and at the J.W. Marriott hotel in the capital, defense attorneys said Monday.

On Friday, prosecutors charged the 67-year-old Bashir under the country's anti-terrorism law for allegedly ordering the Aug. 5, 2003, Marriott bomb that killed 12

people. They also charged him under the criminal code for plotting the Oct. 12, 2002, Bali bombings that left 202 people dead, mostly foreign tourists.

Court officials said the trial will begin Oct. 28, Bashir's lawyer, Wirawan Adnan, said Monday, adding that it will take place in a government auditorium in south Jakarta because so many people are expected to attend.

Karzai leads vote count: An explosion hit a car carrying an election worker in southwestern Afghanistan on Monday, killing him and four other Afghan civilians, just over a week after the war-ravaged nation held its first presidential vote, officials said.

The vote count entered its fourth day with the chief rival of interim leader Hamid Karzai claiming that fraud had helped the U.S.-backed incumbent amass a 45 percentage point lead in preliminary results from the Oct. 9 election.

Pursuing Fischer case: An American civil rights lawyer hired to breathe new life into chess legend Bobby Fischer's efforts to fight deportation to the United States accused U.S. officials on Monday of "grotesque" abuse of their powers and threatened to take the case to the Supreme Court.

Richard Vattunene accused Washington of persecuting Fischer for his political views, refusing to observe due process in the revocation of his U.S. passport and ignoring objections over the legality of its moves to have him deported.

U.S. Embassy officials denied Fischer was being treated unfairly.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

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Clarification

A story in Monday's editions on prisoner releases from Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq included a U.S. military estimate of the number of prisoners released so far. That number, 1,200, was actually for September only, a military spokesman later clarified.

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German officials examine slaying

Driver accepted fare near Wiesbaden

By KEVIN DOUGHERTY

Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — German authorities are investigating the killing of a taxi driver of Pakistani descent who apparently accepted his last fare just outside the gates of Wiesbaden Army Air Field.

The death of Ahmad Abdul Jamil Bhatti on the night of Oct. 8 in Frankfurt so moved area taxi drivers that last Friday about 300 taxicabs joined the funeral procession in a show of solidarity.

Bhatti, 42, died from multiple stab wounds to the chest and head, according to Doris Möller-Scheu, a spokeswoman for the Frankfurt prosecutor's office.

"The [drivers] from Pakistan and Afghanistan," said Siegfried Petry, a German cabbie, "they don't go anywhere to the air base, because they are worried. They are thinking, 'This could happen to me, too.'"

But by Monday afternoon some had returned, drawn to the airfield where a fare to downtown Wiesbaden can easily bring them \$20 or more.

"Most of the time the customers are soldiers," Petry said. "German investigators are reviewing videotapes taken by surveillance cameras mounted in buses and near where the slain in Frankfurt, Möller-Scheu said. The dead-end street is lined with security cameras because a landmark bank has its office there."

In addition, U.S. Army criminal investigators are said to be aiding German authorities in the investigation. While there is no direct evidence linking any American to the crime, the fact that Bhatti's last fare originated from the airfield has authorities interested in

surveillance tapes positioned just outside the front gate, where Bhatti was parked.

"We can't say [Americans are involved] just now," Möller-Scheu said. "We have only the hint. We know the last fare was from there, but there are other possibilities."

Bhatti had been driving a cab in the Wiesbaden area for four years, according to his brother, who asked that his name not be used.

The younger sibling said his brother liked Americans, and often, like so many other taxi drivers, gravitated to the airfield for the lucrative fares.

"He was a very nice and cool-headed person," Bhatti's brother said during an interview at his home Monday. "He was not against Americans."

The brother said it's possible that Bhatti picked up another fare after the airfield, but he didn't know what other cabbies said, the timeline doesn't fit.

"I'm sure [the killer] was American," the brother said. "We're not against Americans. We are personally against terrorism, any kind of terrorism, any kind."

Bhatti is survived by his wife and four children. A reward of 6,000 euros is being offered to anyone with information that leads to an arrest in the case. The phone number to call is: 069-755-54210.

E-mail Kevin Dougherty at: doughertyk@mail.strips.com



Bhatti

Soldiers share school supplies



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Members of the 1st Infantry Division's Task Force 1-18 Infantry pass out school supplies at an elementary school in Tiktik, Iraq, on Saturday. The supplies include glue, pens, pencils and more than 720 notebooks for the children to use.

Clinic to end mail-order service

By Stars and Stripes

The clinic at RAF Upwood, England, will discontinue its pharmacy mail-order medication refill service Dec. 6.

The change brings the clinic in line with Department of Defense policy, according to information released by the 423rd Air Base Squadron public affairs office.

For three years, the clinic had a verbal waiver to offer the service, said Staff Sgt. Misty Lewis, pharmacy technician, in a squadron news release. During that time, refill prescriptions could be delivered through post-office boxes.

That service, however, was not in line with Air Force instructions within DOD TriCare policy.

"There was only one pharmacy technician. If she was sick or [on temporary duty], there was no pharmacy service available and mail-order was a necessity," said Tech. Sgt. Scotty Cass, noncommissioned officer in charge at the clinic, in the news release.

Now that the clinic has two full-time staff members, the clinic must comply with the policy.

Cass urged people to plan ahead for their medication refills so their ability to receive the medicine will not be interrupted. The refills can be handled at the Upwood clinic or the hospital at RAF Lakenheath, about an hour's drive away.

Lewis said, "In most cases, the pharmacy at both Upwood and Lakenheath will dispense a 90-day supply of maintenance medications."

Also, the clinic at Upwood will be open during lunchtime to extend its refill pick-up hours.

Patients are also urged to call ahead for prescription refills at 0800-919121. Refills called in by noon should be ready the following duty day.

Another way to obtain refills is through the TriCare Mail Order Program, an Internet-based medication service available to all TriCare beneficiaries.

More information about the program can be found at www.express-scripts.com.

Students investigated in drug case

By SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROT, Spain — A tip from a high school student in Rota led to the investigation of a group of classmates accused of using and distributing illegal drugs on campus, a Navy spokeswoman said.

Five students faced a disciplinary board Monday and could be expelled from the school, base spokeswoman Lt. Alie Freeman said. The Navy did not release the names of the students because they are minors.

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service and base security are looking into the allegations to see if more students were involved. Between 15 and 20 students are suspected of using drugs on the campus of David Glasgow Farragut High School, sources familiar with the investigation told Stars and Stripes.

"That investigation is not done," Freeman said. "They just completed enough of the investigation to do the hearing for these five kids."

The students are accused of using and distributing hashish on school grounds. The school forwarded the allegations to military law enforcement officials on Oct. 6, according to a statement issued by the Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe. The Defense Department schools have made a "major effort" to create a drug-free environment on campuses, the statement added.

"The position of DODDS-Europe is now and has always been zero tolerance for possession, use or sale of controlled substances or any other contraband," DODDS-Europe spokeswoman Frank O'Gara wrote.

"All allegations or evidence regarding such material are taken very seriously and are responded to immediately."

The students have not been formally charged with U.S. federal or Spanish criminal charges. However, it is possible that the Defense Department could take

additional legal action against the students, Freeman said.

The disciplinary board will determine if the allegations are true. If the committee determines they are, and the misconduct posed a danger to the individual or students, the board could recommend disciplinary action against the students.

Principal P.B. Stafford would make the final decision on any disciplinary action, if he believes it warrants it. Stafford referred all questions to O'Gara.

The students were suspended last week after a "concerned student" came forward and told the principal that the students were using and distributing the drugs on school grounds, Freeman said. An ensuing investigation netted the five students.

The board is expected to make a recommendation to the principal this week.

David Glasgow Farragut High School has 328 students in seventh through 12th grades.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauers@mail.strips.com

Russians join mission

Two Russian warships from the Black Sea Fleet will soon join NATO's antiterrorism mission, Operation Active Endeavour, in the eastern Mediterranean, according to Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov.

The announcement was made after a day-long meeting Thursday between defense ministers of NATO and Russia in Poiana Romania. The meeting focused on how NATO and Russia can cooperate in the fight against terrorism, according to a NATO news release.

Seven warships and various aircraft from numerous NATO nations are taking part in the operation, including the American frigate USS Underwood. It involves surveillance and monitoring of major shipping lanes to deter terrorist operations, and to escort American ships when needed.

Operation Active Endeavour kicked off in October 2001 in the eastern Mediterranean and in

March 2004 expanded to include the entire Mediterranean.

Wife's name released

Army officials released Monday the name of a soldier's spouse who was found dead last week in the couple's on-base apartment in Wiesbaden, Germany.

The wife of the soldier has been identified as Chevonne Talbot, 30, of Georgetown, Guyana, according to Donna Dean, a spokeswoman for the 221st Base Support Battalion.

Talbot's husband, whose authorities have not identified, is a soldier assigned to the 421st Medical Evacuation Battalion. German police are investigating the death, which occurred Oct. 12 in the Hainberger Housing Area. Talbot's husband found her body, Dean said.

A German investigator said Friday that suicide does not appear to be the cause of death, adding Talbot was either killed or suffered a fatal accident.

From staff reports

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 1,086 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 830 died as a result of hostile action and 256 died of nonhostile causes. The figures include three military civilians. The department did not provide an update over the weekend.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 948 U.S. military members have died — 721 as a result of hostile action and 227 of nonhostile causes, according to the military's numbers as of Friday.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Spc. Joseph H. Vanderlip, 21, Irvine, Texas, died Thursday in Baghdad, when his patrol came under fire; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division; Fort Hood.

■ U.S. Army Pvt. 2 David L. Waters, 19, Auburn, Calif., died Thursday in Baghdad, when a bomb exploded near his vehicle; assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 100th Mountain Division (Light Infantry); Fort Drum.

■ Army Lt. Col. Mark P. Phelan, 44, Green Lane, Pa., died Wednesday in Mosul, Iraq, when a bomb hit his vehicle; assigned to the Reserve's 16th Civil Affairs Battalion; Morrisville, Pa.

■ Army Maj. Charles R. Soltis, Jr., 36, Irvine, Calif., died Wednesday in Mosul, Iraq, when a bomb exploded near his vehicle; assigned to the Reserve's 426th Civil Affairs Battalion; Upland, Calif.

■ Army Spc. Jaime Moreno, 28, Round Lake Beach, Ill., died Wednesday in Baghdad, when he was sustained when a bomb exploded near his patrol vehicle; assigned to the 20th Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division; Fort Hood.

■ Army Capt. Dennis L. Pinter, 30, Lima, Ohio, died Tuesday in Baghdad, when a bomb exploded near his patrol vehicle; assigned to the 20th Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division; Fort Hood.

■ Army Spc. Michael S. Weger, 30, Rochester, N.Y., died Tuesday in Baghdad, when a bomb exploded near his patrol vehicle; assigned to the 20th Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division; Fort Hood.

Car bombs kill 12 in Baghdad, Mosul

Iraq releases Fallujah's top negotiator in apparent bid to revive talks

By Robert H. Reid

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Car bombers struck Baghdad and Mosul, raising the two-day death toll from the weapons to 12 by Monday.

The chief negotiator for the city of Fallujah dashed hopes for a quick resumption of peace talks despite his release by U.S. and Iraqi authorities.

In Mosul, a car bomb detonated Sunday morning on a bridge, killing five Iraqis and wounding 15 others, the U.S. military said Monday. The blast occurred when the suicide car-bomber collided with another car, setting off a giant blaze that damaged several other vehicles. A car bomber Monday hit a civilian convoy, killing one and wounding four others.

In Baghdad, a car bomb exploded late Sunday near a police patrol in the Jadiriya district, killing six people, including three police officers, and wounding 26 others. The blast hit a cafe near the Australian Embassy, although there were no Australian casualties.

The American death toll in the Iraq war reached a grim milestone this weekend: 1,100. The crash of two Army helicopters Saturday raised the toll to 1,097 service members and three civilians — two working for the Army and one working for the Air Force. The Associated Press count includes accidental and noncombat deaths.

Meanwhile, Fallujah negotiator Sheikh Khaleel al-Jumaili said peace talks to end the standoff in Iraq's major insurgent bastion would be suspended as a protest against his detention by U.S. troops, who accused him of representing the militants.

"The fact is that I'm negotiating on behalf of Fallujah people — ci-



Chief negotiator for Fallujah, Sheikh Khaleel al-Jumaili, right, is welcomed by a friend after being released from U.S. custody in Fallujah, Iraq, on Monday, on the orders of Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

vilans, kids, women — who have no power but through being represented by somebody. Since this situation has got up to this, each can go wherever they want and we don't need to talk about negotiations," he told Al-Arabiya TV.

Al-Jumaili told the AP he was released Monday from U.S. and Iraqi custody after being detained Friday after talks broke down over the city's rejection of a demand by Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki to turn over terrorist leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Al-Zarqawi's group Tawhid and Jihad has claimed responsibility in numerous beheadings and suicide bombings, including two attacks on Baghdad's Green Zone last week that killed six, including four U.S. civilians.

Witnesses said al-Jumaili was picked up after leaving a mosque

following prayers in a village about 10 miles south of Fallujah.

Also Monday, Iraqi officials said a cash-for-weapons program for Shiite fighters in Baghdad's Sadr City and other locations was extended until Tuesday.

Iraqi officials hope that Fallujah leaders can be persuaded to negotiate a weapons buyback deal similar to one struck with Shiite radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr to end clashes in Sadr City.

U.S. forces have been waging days of air and ground assaults in Fallujah, targeting key sites purportedly used by al-Zarqawi associates.

The latest U.S. assault began Thursday after Fallujah clerics rejected the "impossible" demand to turn over the terrorist leader, insisting that al-Zarqawi was not in

the city. Fallujah fell under control of radical clerics and their armed mujahideen fighters after U.S. Marines lifted their three-week siege of the city in April.

■ In other violence: A militant group has killed two Macedonian men it accused of spying for the United States, Al-Jazeera television reported.

It broadcast a videotape from the Islamic Army in Iraq saying the Macedonians were captured "a few days ago outside an American base in Iraq."

■ An Australian journalist held hostage in Baghdad for 24 hours over the weekend was released unharmed and arrived in Amman, Jordan, his employers said.

■ Baquba police patrol was ambushed Sunday night, injuring nine people, including seven policemen.

Militants pledge allegiance to al-Qaida

Terror group being led by al-Zarqawi

By RAWYA RAGEH

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The militant group led by terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, believed to be behind many deadly attacks in Iraq, has declared its allegiance to Osama bin Laden, citing the need for unity against "the enemies of Islam."

The declaration, which appeared Sunday on a Web site used as a clearinghouse for statements by militant groups, said al-Zarqawi's Tawhid and Jihad

group and al-Qaida had been in communication eight months ago and "viewpoints were exchanged" before the dialogue was interrupted.

"God soon blessed us with a resumption in communication, and the dignified brothers in al-Qaida understood the strategy of Tawhid and Jihad," said the statement, whose authenticity could not be confirmed.

The statement ran a Quranic verse encouraging Muslim unity and said al-Zarqawi considered bin Laden "the best leader for Islam's armies against all infidels and apostates."

The Jordanian-born al-Zarqawi is suspected of about a dozen high-profile attacks in Iraq, including last year's bombing of the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad, and the beheading of numerous foreign hostages.

His relationship to bin Laden and the al-Qaida leadership has

long been the subject of considerable speculation. Although many experts believe al-Zarqawi had longtime ties to al-Qaida, others suspected that al-Zarqawi considered himself a rival to bin Laden for the mantle of chief defender of the Muslim faith.

The Bush administration said it was still trying to confirm the report.

"But we've always said there were ties between Zarqawi and al-Qaida, which underscores once again why Iraq is the central front in the war on terror," White House spokesman Trent Duffy said in Washington. "It's also proof positive of why the president's firm resolve to fight terrorists overseas so we don't face them in America's neighborhoods is the only clear way to prevail."

The statement affirmed the "allegiance of Tawhid and Jihad's leadership and soldiers to the chief of all fighters, Osama bin Laden." It said the announcement

had been timed for the start of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan when "Muslims need more than ever to stick together in the face of the religion's enemies."

The statement also endorsed bin Laden's goal to "expel the infidels from the Arabian peninsula" — a reference to American influence in the al-Qaida leader's native Saudi Arabia, birthplace of the Islamic faith.

Al-Zarqawi's declaration appeared two days after the U.S. government formally declared his Tawhid and Jihad a terrorist organization. The listing imposes several restrictions on the group, including a ban on travel to the United States and a freeze on the group's assets in U.S. banks.

Al-Zarqawi also was indicted in absentia Sunday in his native Jordan along with 12 other alleged Muslim militants on charges of plotting a chemical attack that could have killed thousands of people.

al-Zarqawi

Sanchez had reported shortages in Iraq

BY THOMAS E. RICKS

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The top U.S. commander in Iraq complained to the Pentagon last winter that his supply situation was so poor that it threatened Army troops' ability to fight, according to an official document that has surfaced only now.

The lack of key spare parts for gear vital to combat operations, such as tanks and helicopters, was causing problems so severe, Army Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez wrote in a letter to top Army officials, that "I cannot continue to support sustained combat operations with rates this low."

Senior Army officials said most of Sanchez's concerns have been addressed in recent months, but they continue to keep a close eye on the problems he identified.

The situation is "substantially better" now, said Gary Mosek, deputy director of operations for the Army Materiel Command.

Sanchez, who was the senior commander on the ground in Iraq from the summer of 2003 until the summer of 2004, said in his letter that Army units in Iraq were "struggling just to maintain ... relatively low readiness rates" on key combat systems, such as M-1 Abrams tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles, anti-mortars, radars and Black Hawk helicopters.

He said units were waiting an

average of 40 days for critical spare parts, which he noted was almost three times the Army's average. In some Army supply depots in Iraq, 40 percent of critical parts were at "zero balance," meaning they were absent from depot shelves, he said.

He also protested in his letter, sent Dec. 4 to the No. 2 officer in the Army, with copies to other senior officials, that his soldiers still needed protective inserts to upgrade 36,000 sets of body armor, but that their delivery twice had been postponed in the month before he was writing. There were 131,000 U.S. troops in Iraq at the time.

In what appears to be a plea to top officials to spur the bureaucracy to respond more quickly, Sanchez concluded, "I cannot sustain readiness without Army-level intervention."

Sanchez, who since has moved

back to his permanent base in Germany, did not respond to telephone and e-mail messages seeking comment.

His letter of concern has surfaced after repeated statements by President Bush that he is determined to ensure that U.S. troops fighting in Iraq have all that they need to execute their missions.

"I have pledged, as has the secretary of defense, to give our troops everything that is necessary to complete their mission with the utmost safety," he said in May. Earlier this month, he said in Manchester, N.H., that, "When America puts our troops in combat, I believe they deserve the best training, the best equipment, the full support of our government."

A copy of Sanchez's letter was given to The Washington Post by a person familiar with the situation who was dismayed that front-line troops had not been ade-

quately supplied. That person also disagrees with the Bush administration's handling of Iraq, but said that was not part of the motivation in providing the document.

The disclosure of Sanchez's concerns also follows recent comments by former ambassador Paul Bremer, Sanchez's civilian counterpart in running the U.S. occupation of Iraq, that he believed more troops were needed in Iraq and had asked the Bush administration to send them.

Lt. Gen. Claude Christianson, the senior logistics officer on the Army staff at the Pentagon, said the readiness problems in Iraq peaked last fall but largely have been addressed. He said they were caused by a combination of problems in the supply pipeline and an unexpectedly high pace of combat operations as the Iraqi insurgency flared last year.



Sanchez

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Deadlines for holiday mail are set

Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Postal Service has released the 2004 holiday recommended mailing dates for those wanting to send packages to or from the United States or forces in the Middle East.

Different dates have been set for the various mailing options and mail destined for military members with deployed units, which have APO addresses starting with 093.

There is a 70-pound limit for incoming or outgoing APO/FPO mail.

■ For mail going to APO and FPO addresses:

Package sent parcel post, the recommended deadline to send is Nov. 13;

Space-available mail — Nov. 27;

Parcel airtail — Dec. 4;
Priority mail, first-class cards and letters — Dec. 11; for APO addresses beginning with 093 — Dec. 6.

Express mail — Dec. 20. Local post offices can determine which APO/FPO addresses can receive express mail, but Navy ships do not have express mail services.

■ For mail from APO and FPO addresses:

Space-available mail — Nov. 20.
Parcel airtail — Dec. 4.
Priority mail, first-class cards and letters — Dec. 11.

Express mail — Dec. 18. Only certain base post offices can send express mail.

The USPS also recommends that all mail carry the service-member's full name, with or without rank, military organization or unit, and full APO or FPO address, but should not indicate the deployed country's name in any part of the address.

A decision yet to discipline who reserves who refused mission

By TINI TRAN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The U.S. military said Monday no decision had been made on whether to discipline Army reservists who refused a supply mission last week, despite statements from their relatives that the soldiers would be discharged.

"It is too early in the process to tell if any disciplinary actions will be initiated," Maj. Richard Spiegel, spokesman for the 13th Corps Support Command in Balad, said in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

Families of some soldiers involved said Monday the commanders did not act on complaints that the convoy was hauling contaminated fuel or that their vehicles were in poor working order and were not sufficiently protected with armor.

Spiegel said no decision will be made on discipline until the investigation is completed and recommendations are made.

"I could not speculate as to why soldiers would be telling people that they are going to be discharged," he said.

The Army announced last week it was investigating up to 19 members of a platoon from the 343rd Quartermaster Company, based in Rock Hill, S.C., after they refused to transport supplies from Tallil air base near Nasiriyah to Taji north of Baghdad.

On Monday, Ricky Shealey of Quinton, Ala., father of one of the soldiers involved, told CBS' "The Early Show" that his son, Spc. Scott Shealey, "is being told he is going to be processed out of the Army with a general" discharge.

Shealey said his son "is very depressed about this."

A general discharge is considered a disciplinary action that would lead soldiers to risk losing most — if not all — of their veterans' benefits.

However, the commanding general of the 13th Corps Support Command, Brig. Gen. James Chambers, said Sunday in Baghdad that two investigations were under way and that 18 soldiers involved. He also said none was under arrest, and it was too early to tell whether the soldiers would be disciplined.

Shealey said his son refused to go on the mission because the fuel they were to transport was tainted, and he feared it would be put in a helicopter that would later crash.

Army investigating soldiers in Iraq

The U.S. Army Reserve soldiers who refused orders to drive a dangerous route were members of one of a few supply units whose trucks are still unarmed, their commanding general said Sunday. The route is called "Main Supply Route Tampa" by the military.

Supply route along Highway 1



SOURCE: Global Security

"The command just totally ignored them when they told them the fuel was contaminated, and they were still going to send them out on this mission with contaminated fuel," Shealey told CBS. "The command was completely aware of the situation, and I think it's a command issue and not a soldier issue."

Teresa Hill of Dothan, Ala., the mother of Spc. Amber McCleeny, told NBC's "Today" show: "It was broken-down trucks. Unarmored vehicles."

Chambers denied the fuel was contaminated.

He said the Army is adding steel armor plating on unarmed vehicles and upgrading maintenance. Some of the soldiers told family members they refused the assignment because they lacked proper equipment and protection.

Chambers said the command will "assess armor" on supply vehicles, which are often subject to insurgent attack, and add steel plating if necessary.

The mission was later carried out by other soldiers from the 343rd, which has at least 120 soldiers, the military said.

Chambers has since ordered the 343rd to undergo a "safety-maintenance stand down," dur-

ing which it will conduct no further missions as its vehicles are inspected, the military said.

The platoon has troops from Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina and South Carolina.

The issue of lack of appropriate equipment has been a long-standing complaint by low-level soldiers and higher U.S. command.

Army Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, commander of U.S. forces in Iraq from mid-2003 until this summer, sent a letter to the Pentagon in December 2003 complaining that supplies were short, and this was adversely affecting the ability of troops to fight. The Washington Post reported Monday.

Expert: Army not likely to punish troops for disobeying lawful order

By SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The soldiers of the 343rd Quartermaster Company who refused to drive reportedly unsafe trucks down a dangerous route in Iraq aren't likely to face severe punishment, one military legal expert said Monday.

Too many troops voiced the same concern, which led to a halt in missions while the unit's vehicles were inspected, and there is the risk that the incident could become a political football, said Eugene Fidell.

Fidell teaches military justice at Harvard Law School and serves as president of the National Institute of Military Justice.

With the political heat generated over the U.S. military involvement in Iraq, from prisoner abuse scandals to a lack of evidence on weapons of mass destruction, to reports troops were deployed ill-equipped, it's unlikely the involved soldiers will face harsh punishment or be made examples of, he said.

"Personally, I am quite skeptical if any serious disciplinary action ensues," Fidell said. "I think probably some people are going to get chewed out and I also wouldn't be surprised if the command takes a hit over serious appearance of lack of mission readiness."

That said, the alleged failure of the reservists to obey a lawful order is "obviously impermissible," Fidell said. It puts lives at risk, cracks the foundations of military discipline, and can harm morale.

"It may have been an unwise order, but you can't have people refusing orders. It's hardwired in military life, particularly in combat elements, and that's not something [leadership] will tolerate."

Up to 19 soldiers allegedly refused orders to drive fuel trucks because they had not been serviced and the convoy did not have an escort of armed vehicles for the missions from Tallil air base in southern Iraq to Taji, about 15 miles north of Baghdad.

"Not all of their trucks are completely armored. In their case, they haven't had the chance to get armored," Brig. Gen. James E. Chambers, commanding general of 13th Corps Support Command, said during a weekend press conference in Baghdad, according to The Associated Press.

"They since have returned to duty, and it was 'too early' Sunday to determine if any will face disciplinary action, Chambers said.

Troops have measures in place to appropriately voice concerns, Fidell said.

"People in the field may have information that may not be available to those giving the orders, and you can speak up, provided you do it in an appropriate fashion. In the meantime, you do as you're told," Fidell said. "And you always can go up the chain of command, again, provided you do it in an appropriate fashion."

There is flexibility built into the system, but "disobey a lawful order and do so at your own peril."

Still, "right there and right now, I'd be quite surprised if we saw any court martial charges," Fidell said. "You can't rule anything out, but it's my intuition. To bring down the wrath of the UCMJ on those people, right before a presidential election in which conditions of this war is an issue, might not be the right politics."

"Whether that kind of politics plays a role and gets communicated to those over there, we'll probably never know. This is probably an issue those in position of responsibility would prefer not to deal with, and would not want to make it a bigger issue."

Though still a serious infraction, the fact that so many refused the order lends credibility to their assertions, and points to another indicator that the soldiers likely will not face harsh punishment, Fidell said.

"It tends to suggests there was objective merit to their concerns," he said. "To have one person on a personal idiosyncratic mission is different from having a lot of careered reservists who are really concerned about being asked to something unnecessarily unsafe."

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@stripes.osd.mil

14 held on active duty as potential witnesses in prison cases

By FOSTER KLUG
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The Army has extended active duty for 14 potential witnesses in the criminal trials of fellow reservists accused of abusing Iraqi prisoners, military officials said Monday.

While other members of the Maryland-based 372nd Military Police Company have returned to their civilian lives, the potential witnesses have been retained until their original two-year call-up orders expire on Feb. 22, said Army spokesman Maj. Elizabeth Robbins. Seven members of the company were charged after the release of photos showing soldiers from the unit humiliating detainees at the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad. Pfc. Lyndie England, the reservist seen in some of the most notorious photos, faces a January court-martial.

The potential witnesses, who returned from Iraq in August, are stationed at Fort Lee, Va.

Robbins said the decision to keep them on active duty originated with Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, commander of ground forces in Iraq, and was approved by acting Army Secretary Les Brownlee.

Asked if the decision was a common Army practice, Robbins replied it was not.

"We took extraordinary care in making the request," she said. "We take seriously that we are asking these individuals to stay on active duty to perform an extremely important duty. This is not a normal thing. We want to do the right thing here."

Robbins said there had been no decision on whether the soldiers would be retained past Feb. 22. "We'll cross that bridge when we come to it," she said.

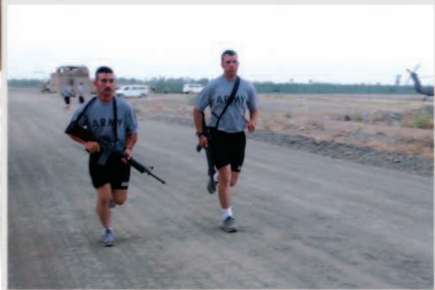
Eugene Fidell, a specialist in military justice at the National Institute of Military Justice, said the government has other ways to compel the testimony of witnesses at trial, including obtaining an enforceable court order.

"I think this was done for convenience, to basically make sure the people are available," said Fidell, who teaches military justice at Harvard Law School. "But I can think of few better ways to alienate witnesses on whose testimony you might have to rely than to basically put their lives on hold."

One soldier from the 372nd, Spc. Jeremy Sivits, is serving a one-year prison sentence after pleading guilty in May to three charges. Another member of the unit, Spc. Sgt. Ivan "Chip" Frederick, plans to plead guilty Wednesday to four charges, said his attorney, Gary Myers.

Photos from the Front

Presented by Stars and Stripes Advertising & AIG Europe



ABOVE Soldiers on FOB Salerno, Afghanistan, run with weapons as part of the Army's effort to diversify physical training in a combat environment. The run fits in with the Army adage: "We train as we fight."

FRANK MASON/U.S. Army

LEFT Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team in Tikrit, Iraq, chow down on traditional Hispanic foods. The food was part of a Hispanic Heritage Month event that also included a history of Hispanic heritage, comments from a guest speaker and a demonstration of salsa dancing.

MARK CHOCER/U.S. Army



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Britain outlines U.S. request for troops

By ED JOHNSON

The Associated Press

LONDON — Britain is considering a request by the United States to redeploy a small number of British troops in Iraq so as to free up American soldiers for anti-terror operations, Defense Secretary Geoff Hoon told lawmakers Monday.

Hoon said British commanders would send out a reconnaissance team on Tuesday to assess the request, and said the chief of defense staff was expected to make a recommendation "by the middle of the week."

In a statement to the House of Commons, he rejected claims by opposition lawmakers that any redeployment would be a political gesture designed to bolster President Bush ahead of presidential elections on Nov. 2.

"I want to make clear that the request is a military request," Hoon told lawmakers. He stressed that America, contrary to media reports, had not asked for British soldiers to be sent to Baghdad or Fallujah.

"I want to make clear that the request is a military request."

Geoff Hoon

British defense secretary

"The U.S. request is for a limited number of U.K. ground forces to be made available to relieve U.S. forces to allow them in turn to participate in further operations elsewhere in Iraq to maintain the continuing pressure on terrorists," Hoon added.

"We are obviously considering this request," he said, adding that issues such as the timing of any redeployment, the length of the potential operation, command and control arrangements and which regiment to send had yet to be worked out.

U.S. military command in Iraq made the request for assistance Oct. 10, he added, and said it involved "U.K. land forces" operating outside of the British controlled sector in southern Iraq.

Several newspapers have reported that Britain is considering sending its reserve

force — the 650 strong First Battalion Black Watch — to fill in for U.S. troops expected to launch a major offensive against insurgents in Fallujah.

Britain currently has some 9,000 troops in Iraq, operating in the relatively peaceful south around the port city of Basra.

Sending British soldiers further north into the U.S.-controlled sector, where there are more attacks by insurgents, carries a risk of higher casualties and would be politically sensitive for Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Some lawmakers are opposed to British troops coming under U.S. command, believing that may put soldiers under a greater threat of attack. Many believe that three decades of Irish Republican Army violence in Northern Ireland have given Brit-

ish soldiers experience in urban patrolling and helped them develop both a well-honed instinct for ambushes and a sense of restraint. Critics suggest the U.S. military lacks such experience and has a tendency to overreact.

Hoon dismissed such concerns.

"If we agree to this request, the arrangements will ensure that U.K. forces have a specific task. They will be responsible for a particular area. There are no practical difficulties for U.K. forces operating alongside those from the U.S.," he said.

Earlier Monday, opposition Liberal Democrat leader Charles Kennedy said he could not see why the U.S. military, which has some 130,000 troops in Iraq, might need further support from British soldiers.

"It is hard to see why that constitutes a crucial contribution in the American point of view," he told British Broadcasting Corp. radio, and said Britain should be considering withdrawing from Iraq. "This, far from being an exit strategy, runs the risk of being an ensnarement strategy that draws Britain further into the mire," he added.

Improvements followed scandal, new academy dean says

By ROBERT WELLER

The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Brig. Gen. Dana Born, the newly appointed academy dean born of the Air Force Academy, said the institution has emerged stronger following a sexual assault scandal that led to widespread reforms and a leadership shake-up.

Nearly 150 women came forward last year to say they had been assaulted by fellow cadets between 1993-2003, with many alleging that they were punished, ignored or ostracized by commanders when they spoke out. In an interview in early July, Born said, "We all have to become smarter about how we see sexual assault and sexual harassment," adding the scandal "was the lightning rod that hit the Air Force Academy."

Nominated by President Bush in July, Born is the first woman to be faculty dean. She suc-

ceeded Brig. Gen. David A. Wagie, who was criticized last year by a congressional panel for failing to recognize the academy's growing sexual assault problem. Cleared by the Pentagon of any wrongdoing, Wagie retired in August.

Outside investigations concluded the academy's culture created the conditions that contributed to the scandal. That includes lingering resistance to having female cadets at all. Last year, a survey of cadets found 22 percent did not believe women belonged here, more than a quarter of a century after they were first admitted.

However, cadets have become more accepting of women, according to a survey earlier this year.

Many victims said they were left afraid by commanders and school staff or penalized for coming forward. Others said their grades dropped dramatically.

In a statement Born sent to faculty members, she told them to watch for signs of trouble — everything from "pronounced changes" in academic performance and conduct to a failure to perform assignments.

"The experiences that I have had and the academic training that I have had will be a professor," said Born, who was previously a professor and head of the Behavioral Sciences and Leadership Department at the academy. She also is a 1983 graduate of the academy.

"You are changing the heart. You are changing the moral basis," said Born, adding that the target is not just students but staff and teachers. "It is focusing on everybody getting better."

Lt. Gen. John Rosa, the academy superintendent brought in at the height of the scandal, is pushing the staff to make sure gender, discrimination and harassment issues are part of virtually every class.

Putin: Terrorists want Bush to lose

The Associated Press

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan — Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday that terrorists are aiming to derail President Bush's chances at re-election through their attacks in Iraq.

"I consider the activities of terrorists in Iraq are not as much aimed at coalition forces but more personally against President Bush," Putin said at a news conference.

"International terrorism has as its goal to prevent the election of President Bush to a second term," he said. "If they achieve that goal, then that will give international terrorism a new impulse and extra power."

Still, Putin did not say which candidate he favored in the Nov. 2 U.S. presidential election.

Putin also noted his continuing disagreement with Bush on Washington's invasion of Iraq.

With Russia assenting to the deployment of U.S. forces in former Soviet Central Asia for operations in neighboring Afghanistan. In exchange, Washington has mostly looked the other way on Moscow's continuing war in breakaway Chechnya, which Russia alleges is being fueled by international terror groups.

On his last visit to Central Asia in June, Putin appeared to be backing Bush's assertion that Iraq was a threat, saying at a summit in Kazakhstan that Russia had notified Washington about intelligence that Saddam Hussein's regime was preparing attacks in the United States and its interests abroad.

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IN THE STATES

Fla. voters begin casting early ballots for election

BY JILL BARTON
The Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — With memories of 2000 and the state's bitter fight over ballots still fresh, Floridians began casting votes Monday and within an hour problems cropped up.

In Palm Beach County, the center of the madness during the recount four years ago, a Democratic state legislator said she wasn't given a complete absentee ballot when she asked to opt for paper instead of the electronic touch-screen machines. Several voting sites in Broward County had problems with laptops connected to elections headquarters. And a brief computer system crash in Orange County paralyzing voting in Orlando and its immediate suburbs.

A steady flow turned out Monday morning at more than a dozen sites in Palm Beach County. Patrick Flanagan, who went to the county's election headquarters to cast his ballot, said he voted early because he wanted to avoid the long lines expected on Election Day. He said he's voted on the touch-screen machines once before, and both times have gone "very smoothly."

"I'm a computer-phobe, and it seemed easy enough to me," said Flanagan, who added that he had no concerns about his vote being counted.

While backers touted early voting for people like Flanagan as a way to avoid long lines on Nov. 2, some have criticized the concept, saying it increases opportunities



University of Florida students camp out Sunday in downtown Gainesville, Fla., at the Downtown Community Plaza, so they can be the first to cast early votes Monday for the presidential election.

for fraud without significantly boosting participation.

Some groups urged Florida voters to ask for paper absentee ballots because of concerns over the state's new touch-screen voting machines and any potential recounts. Voters Monday morning could choose either method.

State Rep. Shelley Vanad said the paper absentee ballot she was given at a Palm Beach County site was missing one of its two pages, including the proposed amendments to the state constitution. She said election workers were indifferent when she pointed out the oversight.

"There was absolutely no con-

cern on the part of the folks at the Supervisor of Elections Office that this page was missing. This is not a good start. If there are incomplete ballots out there, I can't imagine I would be the only one getting it," she said.

County election supervisor Theresa LePore did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Early voting also gets under way Monday in Texas, Colorado and Arkansas. Other key states this year have already begun in-person voting, including Iowa, Nevada, Ohio and New Mexico. Balloting by mail is under way in Oregon, the only state in the nation that has done away with polling booths altogether.

On the issues



Can the U.S. government achieve a balanced budget this decade?

President Bush



"My administration inherited a recession and that was followed by the shock of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, which produced budget deficits. During my administration, we have reduced the rate of growth for non-security discretionary spending from the

15 percent growth rate in the last budget year of the previous administration to less than 1 percent in my 2005 budget. My 2005 budget contains detailed plans for pro-growth economic policies and spending restraint that will cut the deficit in half in five years."

Sen. John Kerry



"We've suffered record deficits under George Bush as the size of government has exploded, and that's why I stand by a sensible plan that will cut the deficit in half in my first term, while investing in economic growth

and investing in workers. To restore fiscal discipline I will repeal Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy, cut excesses in government and implement the McCain-Kerry Commission on corporate welfare to cut special tax loopholes and pork barrel spending projects."

AP

Kerry tours Fla. as Bush speaks in N.J.

BY MARY DALRYMPLE
The Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Florida voters started casting early ballots for U.S. president on Monday, and Democratic candidate John Kerry was to spend all day asking for their support in this crucial state that decided the last election.

President Bush was to give a speech about security in New Jersey, arguing that his battle plan for fighting terrorists is better than his rival's.

Polls show the two candidates running neck-and-neck in Florida as well as across the nation, although some recent national polls give Bush a slight edge.

Campaigning in West Palm Beach, Kerry criticized the president's conduct in Iraq and urged voters to take advantage of laws that allow Florida residents to cast their ballots before Election Day.

Early voting was introduced in Florida after the drawn-out recount in the 2000 election, in which Bush defeated Al Gore by a mere 537 votes across the state.

Kerry referred to a report in The Washington Post that the U.S. commander in Iraq, Army Lt. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, said last winter that his supply situation was so poor that it threatened the troops' ability to fight, and said Bush was guilty of "arrogant boasting" about Iraq.

"Despite the president's arrogant boasting that he's done everything right in Iraq and that he's made no mistakes, the truth is beginning to catch up with him," Kerry said. "The president's tough talk about always supporting the troops is nothing more than empty rhetoric."

The Bush-Cheney campaign

struck back, saying Kerry voted against money for Iraq and Afghanistan.

"John Kerry has demonstrated his ability to say anything at anytime to anyone if it benefits him politically," said spokesman Steve Schmidt.

Florida, which gave Bush the victory in the controversial 2000 election by a razor-thin margin, remains a battleground this year, and Bush planned a campaign trip to the state later Monday as well.

Whichever candidate gets more votes in Florida captures all 27 of its electoral votes. A total of 270 electoral votes is needed to win the presidential election.

The two campaigns traded accusations of using scare tactics to win support.

Bush, flying from Washington to New Jersey, accused Kerry of alarming voters by suggesting that the president would jeopardize Social Security for older Americans and bring back the military draft for young people.

Bush said the United States will remain "on alert" about the possibility of a terrorist strike on U.S. soil before the election, but said, "we have no specific threat information on that. Otherwise, we would have let people know."

Campaigning in Fort Myers, Fla., Kerry's running mate, John Edwards, accused Bush of using scare tactics and exploiting the Sept. 11 attacks for personal political gain.

"George Bush is playing on people's deepest fears," Edwards said. "He's exploiting a national tragedy for personal gain."

Before heading to New Jersey, Bush signed a bill giving the Department of Homeland Security about \$33 billion for the budget year that began Oct. 1.

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High court orders Texas redistricting review

BY GINA HOLLAND
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court handed Democrats a victory Monday, ordering a lower court to reconsider a Texas redistricting plan that could give Republicans six more seats and a firmer hold on their majority in the House.

The decision won't affect next month's elections, though any GOP gains on Nov. 2 could be wiped out later if the plan ultimately is deemed unconstitutional.

States must redraw boundaries

every 10 years to reflect population shifts found during the census.

Five appeals over the Texas boundary-drawing pose an interesting question: Can political leaders of a Legislature force district drawing more frequently than once a decade, to make more seats winnable for members of their party? The case has been exceedingly contentious. Democratic legislators twice staged walkouts from the Texas Legislature to protest district-drawing that benefited Republican candidates. And House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, was admon-

ished recently by the House ethics committee for getting too involved.

In a brief order, justices threw out a victory for Texas Republican legislators, and ordered a three-judge federal panel in Texas to reconsider the issue.

The Supreme Court has been divided on how much politics should be allowed in redistricting. In a 5-4 ruling last spring, justices left a narrow opening for challenges claiming party politics overly influenced election maps.

The court said Monday that the Texas map should be viewed again, in light of that decision.

Also Monday, the Supreme Court declined to reinstate a lawsuit filed by a former Georgia representative who claimed her loss in the 2002 Democratic primary resulted from widespread Republican crossover voting.

The court let stand a 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that threw out Democrat Cynthia McKinney's lawsuit, citing a lack of sufficient evidence. The ruling said the Democratic Party is free to hold an open primary.

Also Monday, the court refused to consider whether former Arkansas Gov. Jim Guy Tucker was wrongly barred from raising new

arguments in challenging his 1998 conviction for tax conspiracy.

Tucker pleaded guilty to the charge, but now wants to have his conviction overturned based on new information.

The Supreme Court also declined Monday to resurrect a lawsuit by three California women who say Planned Parenthood withholds information linking abortions to breast cancer.

The court, without comment, let stand a decision by the California Supreme Court dismissing the suit and ordering the women to pay more than \$77,000 in attorneys' fees.



Jason Miller and passenger John Natchigal drive across rocks on an abandoned eastern Kentucky surface coal mine near Harlan, Ky., in early October. Mike Shelton is videotaping the drive. All three are members of Kentucky Mountain Crawlers, an off-road group based in Harlan County.

Ky. cashes in on off-roading

Old coal mines are big draw for all-terrain tourists

BY ROGER ALFORD
The Associated Press

HARLAN, Ky. — Out-of-state license plates tell the story of eastern Kentucky's rising popularity among off-rovers.

Pickup trucks bearing tags from as far away as Florida and Ohio roll through town, some pulling trailers laden with all-terrain vehicles, others carrying heavy-duty rock-crawling machines, on their way to some of Kentucky's harshest terrain.

They're pouring into a region where coal mining has turned mountaintops into off-road paradises.

"They love it here," said Preston McLean, a member of the group Harlan County Ridge Runners who guides visitors on rides along the Kentucky-Virginia line. "We've got views from these mountaintops that you don't find anywhere else."

Thousands of miles of rocky, rutted mountain roads have made eastern Kentucky a primary destination for a growing number of people who ride all-terrain vehicles or plod cross-country in four-wheel-drive trucks and SUVs with tires that look like they came off a farm tractor.

Andy Jones, director of strategic development in Harlan County, wants to capitalize on the phenomenon to rejuvenate a local economy as rocky as any of the backwoods trails.

While some other communities have frowned on off-rovers, Harlan County welcomes them. Jones said people in Harlan want to draw more riders to spend money in hotels, restaurants and shops.

"People are serious about it," he said. "I see tremendous potential. This is part of the strategy we have to improve the economy of our country."

Harlan County leaders have leased 7,000 acres of abandoned coal mine land, complete with an assortment of rugged trails and roads, and are working on adding about 30,000 additional acres.

That land is open to the monstrous off-road vehicles, ATVs, even dirt bikes, and has already begun to pay off, said Ronnie Shoop, a member of the group Kentucky Mountain Crawlers.

Shoop said liability issues can be a problem for off-rovers on private land. Harlan County solved the problem by leasing the land and accepting the liability. The county leaders hope to be able to apply revenues from coal-severance taxes to the cost of

insurance.

"This probably is the single best tourism plan," Shoop said. "It's not only going to give local people something to do, but it will create a market for people to come from out of town."

Some of the eastern Kentucky back roads, originally built for coal trucks, wind through the mountains for 100 miles or more, linked through a network of abandoned surface mines.

Kentucky Tourism Commissioner Randy Fivess said he wants to promote all aspects of outdoor recreation, including motor sports, while at the same time protecting the environment.

Jones believes that the abandoned coal mines they have left many of eastern Kentucky's mountaintops treeless could hold the key to turn the region into a center for off-road recreation. People want to see views from atop the Appalachians, he said.

Jones said off-road activities will be simply one part of Harlan County's tourism package. He said people already are flooding in to see the elk, black bear, deer and turkey that have become so plentiful.

GI's daughter delivered after 4-car crash in Ill.

Vehicle split in two after sideswiped

The Associated Press

MARINE, Ill. — Her name is American, and her birth was close to miraculous.

America Lynn Rae Bartlett was born Saturday at Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, only a short time after her parents' car was ripped in two in a terrifying crash on Interstate 70 in Illinois' Madison County.

The infant's father, Alan Bartlett, 21, is a soldier who recently was deployed to Iraq. He almost didn't survive his trip from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., to his home in the village of Munnsville, N.Y., in Madison County, N.Y.

Alan Bartlett was at the wheel when his small car was involved in a four-vehicle crash near Marine shortly after 3:30 p.m. Saturday. His wife, Kelley, 19, who was eight months pregnant, was his passenger.

Alan Bartlett's mother, Sheila Bartlett, was driving another vehicle ahead of her son. With her was a daughter, Jessica Bartlett, and the two children of Alan and Kelley Bartlett, a boy, 1, and a girl who will be 2 in December.

According to the Illinois State Police, an eastbound tractor-trailer driven by Dennis Lucas, 36, of Montezuma, Ind., sideswiped

Alan and Kelley Bartlett's east-bound Pontiac Sunbird as the truck was changing lanes. Alan Bartlett lost control of his car, and it went across the median before being struck by a westbound vehicle driven by Connie Hammond, 42, of Highland, Ill.

The impact tore the Sunbird in half, with part of the car landing off the road and the other part flying through the air and striking a

westbound Venetia police car driven by Officer Timothy Fisk Jr., 23.

Alan Bartlett was treated at Anderson Hospital and released, and Kelley Bartlett was in good condition Sunday.

at Barnes-Jewish, where doctors performed an emergency Caesarean section to deliver a premature but apparently healthy baby girl.

Hammond was the only person seriously hurt; she was still in a hospital on Sunday.

"I guess God is really looking over my brother and our family," Alan Bartlett's sister, Leigh Bartlett, told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on Sunday from her home in Munnsville, 25 miles east of Syracuse.

State police said the seriousness of the injuries was limited because all of the victims were wearing seat belts.

Arson suspect a killer?

BRENTWOOD, Calif. — Preliminary information suggests that a man who apparently committed suicide after setting a fire in Yosemite National Park had earlier killed his wife and two young daughters, police said.

The 32-year-old Michael Celebrini, 32, and his two daughters, 6-year-old Nina Celebrini and 6-year-old Samantha Fouch, were found Saturday in their home in Brentwood, about 50 miles east of San Francisco.

The same day, rangers in a re-

moté area of the national park's Hetch Hetchy basin found a body that they believe is that of an arsonist who ignited a 2,000-acre blaze in the area.

Brentwood police Sgt. Tom Hansen said Sunday that investigators suspect the body is that of Richard Celebrini, who they believe killed his wife and the girls.

Autopsy results were not released Sunday, but park spokesman Scott Giedman said the suspected arsonist appears to have died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

From The Associated Press

Study: Race wealth gap grew after recession

White households have more net worth than blacks, Hispanics

BY GENARO C. ARMAS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The enormous wealth gap between white families and blacks and Hispanics grew larger after the most recent recession, a private analysis of government data finds.

White households had a median net worth of greater than \$88,000 in 2002, 11 times more than Hispanics and more than 14 times that of blacks, the Pew Hispanic Center said in a study being released Monday.

Blacks were slowest to emerge from the economic downturn that started in 2000 and ended in late 2001, the report found.

Net worth accounts for the values of items such as a home and car, checking and savings accounts, and stocks, minus debts such as mortgage, car loans and credit card bills.

Greater wealth means a greater ability to weather a job loss, emergency home repairs, illness and other unexpected costs, as well as being able to save for retirement or a child's college tuition.

According to the group's analysis of Census

Bureau data, nearly one-third of black families and 26 percent of Hispanic families were in debt or had no net assets, compared with 11 percent of white families.

"Wealth is a measure of cumulative advantage or disadvantage," said Roderick Harrison, a researcher at the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a Washington think tank that focuses on black issues.

"The fact that black and Hispanic wealth is a fraction of white wealth also reflects a history of discrimination."

After accounting for inflation, net worth for white households increased 17 percent between 1996 and 2002 and rose for Hispanic homes by 14 percent to about \$7,900. It decreased for blacks by 16 percent, to roughly \$6,000.

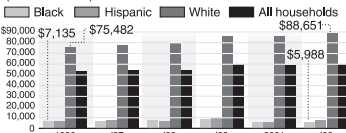
Regardless of race and ethnicity, the median net worth for all U.S. households was \$39,700 in 2002, a 12 percent gain from 1996.

Only white homes recouped all their losses between 2001 and 2002. Both Hispanics and blacks lost nearly 27 percent of net worth between 1999 and 2001; the next year Latinos had gained almost all back (26 percent) though blacks were up only about 5 percent.

Wide gap in net worth among races

Since 1996, the net worth of white households has increased while that of black households have decreased, according to a study by the Pew Hispanic Center. White households still have 14 times greater net worth than blacks and Hispanics.

Median net worth of households by race and ethnicity
(in 2003 dollars)



NOTE: Net worth is total asset ownerships including property, interest earnings, pension accounts, savings bonds, retirement accounts, stocks and funds, business, vehicles and other assets; 2000 data not available; all households includes Asians and others

SOURCE: Pew Hispanic Center

AP

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Irishman dead at 105

NEW YORK — William Geary, an ex-superintendent with the Irish Garda Síochána police, who was fired in 1929 and spent seven decades trying to clear his name, died of heart failure Oct. 14 at a Queens hospital, the Irish Times reported Monday. He was 105.

Geary left Ireland when he was dismissed, accused of taking a \$180 bribe from the Irish Republican Army in Kilrush Co. Clare, Ireland, where he was stationed.

It took up until 1999 that Ireland's former justice minister John D'Onoghue pardoned Geary and gave him a superintendent's pension plus about \$75,000 restitution.

Tour bus accident

MARION, Ill. — A tour bus taking people home from a charity event ran off a highway and overturned, injuring dozens of passengers, authorities said.

The bus was en route from Chicago to Holly Springs, Miss., with 42 people on board when it ran off the pavement of Interstate 57 and overturned late Sunday, said Jamie Moak, a State Police dispatcher.

Authorities said the bus passengers were residents of Tennessee and Mississippi who were returning home after participating in a prostate cancer fund-raiser in Chicago organized by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

Eleven people were being treated at Herrin Hospital, nursing supervisor Martha McDonald said.

Butterfly migration

AUSTIN — The annual migration of monarch butterflies that crosses Texas en route to Central Mexico is the smallest in 14 years, experts say.

Hundreds of millions of the large, colorful butterflies migrate to near Mexico City from the United States and Canada each fall. But herbicides, changing farming practices and weather are apparent culprits in the reduction numbers.

The migration funnels through a 300-mile-wide corridor from Oklahoma City to Del Rio before crossing the border.

From The Associated Press

Too many terror alerts take toll on police force

BY SARI HORWITZ
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The first call came in to the U.S. Capitol early in the morning. A Capitol Police officer was too sick to work. Soon, another officer called with the same problem. Then another. And another. By the end of the Columbus Day weekend, more than 70 officers charged with protecting Congress had called in sick.

It was the largest number of Capitol Police officers who ever had "banged in." Many of them say they really were sick—an illness brought on by fatigue. The constant and continual elevated terror alerts have meant weeks and weeks of 12-hour shifts, little vacation and fewer days off. When Congress stayed in session rather than adjourn for the holiday weekend, it was, for many, the last straw.

"The officers are extremely fatigued. They're really stressed out," said U.S. Capitol Police Officer Andy Maybo, chairman of the police union, which did not organize or support the action.

It's not just the Capitol Police. All across the country, but especially in Washington and New York, police officers and federal agents say the heightened alert and the strain of long hours with no end in sight are taking their toll.

The chiefs also have to worry about how to pay their bills.

They have been making the case to our congressional leaders that New York, along with Washington, deserves special attention when it comes to federal counterterrorism funding. New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said Friday in a speech to Army War College students.

In fiscal year 2001, New York City spent \$200,000 on police overtime for anti-terrorism. According to the New York City Independent Budget Office, it costs \$500,000 each week to maintain the current terror alert. New York officials said the heightened alert is built into their policing policy and strategy now, but the costs are daunting.

"The city is facing a \$3 billion deficit next year, and we are spending money we don't have because Congress hasn't come through for New York," said Ed Skyley, a spokesman for Republican Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg.

In Washington, the U.S. Capitol Police spend about \$1.5 million in overtime every two weeks.

D.C. Police Chief Charles Ramsey said big-city police departments are struggling to strike a balance between responding to terrorism and protecting the public from other social ills.

"I deal with day-to-day crime in addition to terrorist threat," Ramsey said. "I've got to be able to do both."

"This is the new normal," Ramsey said.

Staff writers Michael Powell and Michelle Garcia in New York and Mary Beth Sheridan in Washington contributed to this report.



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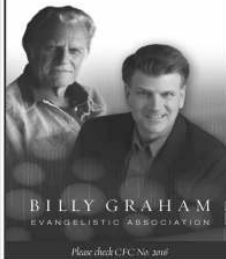
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IN THE WORLD

Iran says it will suspend some nuclear activities

BY ALI AKBAR DAREINI
The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran said Monday it is prepared to suspend temporarily some nuclear activities, but it would not forego its right to enrich uranium.

The big three European powers reportedly intend to offer Iran this week a package of economic incentives in the hope of persuading the country to abandon uranium enrichment, a process used to produce fuel for nuclear reactors and weapons.

The move by Britain, France and Germany is designed to head off a confrontation between Iran and the U.N. nuclear agency, where the United States has been arguing that Iran has secret plans to build atomic weapons.

"From a tactical point of view, discussion on how long to continue suspension (of some nuclear activities) is negotiable," Iran's top nuclear negotiator, Hassan Rowhani, told state television Monday.

"But if the discussion is about preventing us of our legitimate rights (to manage the cycle of nuclear fuel), it's not negotiable. Our negotiating team is not authorized

to discuss this either with Europeans or others," Rowhani said.

He said that said any suspension of nuclear activities would have to be for "a short period of time." He did not specify what activities Iran would suspend.

Last month, the International Atomic Energy Agency unanimously passed a resolution that demands Iran freeze all work on uranium enrichment and related activities, such as uranium reprocessing and the building of centrifuges used for enrichment.

The U.N. nuclear watchdog is due to meet Nov. 25 to judge Iran's compliance. An unsatisfactory judgment could lead to Iran's file being referred to the U.N. Security Council, which has the power to impose sanctions on Iran.

Iran has already defied the IAEA resolution by continuing to build centrifuges and by converting a few tons of raw uranium into hexafluoride gas, a stage prior to enrichment.

Iran has branded the IAEA resolution as illegal, and points to the fact that the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty entitles it to enrich uranium. Iran says its nuclear program is devoted entirely to the generation of electricity.



Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, right, talks to Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, left, during a meeting on Sudan's Darfur region in Tripoli, Libya on Sunday.

Foreign help for Darfur rejected

African leaders commend Sudan's effort in humanitarian crisis

BY KHALED AL-DEEB
The Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya — Sudan's president and four African counterparts rejected Monday any foreign intervention in Darfur, describing the bloody humanitarian crisis as an "absolute African issue."

After an overnight summit, the leaders of Chad, Egypt, Libya, Nigeria and Sudan issued a statement that seemed to say they would not accept the imposition of sanctions or any other penalties on Sudan by the U.N. Security Council or Western powers.

Sudan faces the threat of U.N. sanctions as the U.N. Security Council investigates allegations leveled by the United States and humanitarian groups that the government and its allied Arab militia have committed genocide against Darfur's African people. An estimated 70,000 people have died since conflict broke out in Sudan's western region early last year. Nearly 1.5 million people have fled their

homes, tens of thousands crossing into neighboring Chad. The government denies genocide has occurred.

In their statement, the five presidents expressed approval of what they called Sudan's "efforts to improve the humanitarian situation ... its cooperation with international parties interested in human rights."

But they also said they hoped "the Sudanese government adopts measures to comply with the demands of [U.N.] Security Council's resolutions 1556 and 1564" — which demand that the government disarm all militia and restore law and order in Darfur.

The presidents said they "reject any foreign intervention from any party in this absolute African issue."

The U.N. Security Council has said it would consider penalties such as sanctions if the Sudanese government fails to comply with its resolutions and restore peace to Darfur.

Digital fingerprinting, migrant camps top European meeting

BY ALESSANDRA RIZZO
The Associated Press

FLORENCE, Italy — In a bid to improve security, ministers from five European countries said Monday they hoped to start digital fingerprinting for passports in 2006, but they split over a German proposal to put illegal migrants in transit camps in North Africa.

Interior ministers from Britain, France, Germany, Spain and Italy held two days of informal talks in a 19th-century villa in Florence to prepare initiatives they hope will eventually be adopted throughout the entire 25-member European Union.

But they failed to overcome their own differences over Germany's proposal, backed by Italy, to set up camps in North Africa to process asylum seekers before they set out on perilous sea journeys to southern European shores.

In a statement at the end of the talks Monday morning, the ministers said they were hoping to introduce the fingerprint measure for passports issued in their countries starting in 2006.

The transit camp proposal, however, had been the focus of the meeting.

Although Spain, like Italy, is flooded with immigrants making

clandestine voyages across the Mediterranean from North Africa, it sided with France in coming down against the German idea.

"For France, it's out of the question to accept transit camps or shelters of any kind," French Interior Minister Dominique de Villepin said at a closing news conference.

Spain's interior minister, Jose Antonio Alonso, said such camps would not give humanitarian guarantees.

De Villepin said international organizations and the transit states should be involved in deciding the policy.

Italy has been concentrating its efforts lately to keep thousands of illegal migrants from reaching its shores by working with Libya, a major trading partner, whose shores, officials say, are a launching point for many of the smuggler boat runs.

Opponents of the transit camp proposal have expressed fears that bids for asylum might not be fairly handled.

France and Spain had already expressed reservations before the Florence talks.

German Interior Minister Otto Schily, who first made the transit camp proposal, said Monday that the initiative would deal with the problem "where it is born."

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro (Oct. 19)	\$1.2952
British pound (Oct. 19)	\$1.85
Japanese yen (Oct. 20)	106.00
South Korean won (Oct. 19)	1,114.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.37699
British pound	1.51804
Canada (dollar)	1.518
Denmark (krone)	5.63
Egypt (pound)	6.252
Hong Kong (dollar)	0.7982
Hungary (Forint)	197.28
Israel (Shekel)	4.623
Japan (Yen)	109.19
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.29611
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.918
Philippines (Peso)	56.40
Singapore (dollar)	1.3518
Singapore (dollar)	1.3518
South Korea (Won)	116.40
Switzerland (franc)	1.45
Thailand (Baht)	47.13
Turkey (Lira)	1,850,000.00

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonmilitary currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are inter-bank rates for major currencies. When buying currency, all figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

London close	\$418.80
Gold	\$770
Silver	\$7.00

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.75
Federal funds market rate	1.825
3-month bill	1.73
Source: The Associated Press, Bank of America	

Sharon: Gaza plan stays

JERUSALEM — Facing unrelenting criticism from Jewish settlers, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Monday nothing would deter him from pushing forward with his plan to pull out of

Gaza and parts of the West Bank.

Sharon has pledged to put his "disengagement plan" to a parliamentary vote Oct. 25. Despite a rift in his hard-line Likud Party, he is expected to prevail with the backing of dovish opposition parties.

From The Associated Press

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

'Presenteeism' problems

Knit Rider Newspapers

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Some workers feel compelled to do anything just to endure another workday. Now researchers are trying to document the impact of health ailments on productivity. There's even a new workplace buzzword for it: "presenteeism," the practice of showing up for work but not being fully productive.

Productivity losses stemming from "presenteeism" amount to more than \$150 billion a year in the United States, according to an article in October's Harvard Business Review. A Cornell University study said presenteeism could account for up to 60 per-

cent of the cost of worker illness, even more than the cost of absenteeism.

The issue is simple: Workers plagued by presenteeism can spread illness to others and lower productivity.

With a serious flu season looming combined with the vaccine shortage, presenteeism could be a bigger issue if workers feel compelled to punch in for a full day's work.

"Being in contact with contagious individuals jeopardizes the health and productivity of all employees," Rosen said. Employers need to emphasize to employees that while they need them at work, they first want a healthy workplace.

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OPINION

Campaigns nasty, know what I mean?

BY RON FOURNIER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Virginia car-service driver Cecil Rust glances at the rearview mirror and asks his passenger, "Why is politics so mean now?" Halfway across the country, Angela Warren of St. Louis says she will skip her first presidential election out of disgust — "There's so much hate."

In Miami, Carol Agrati struts sweeter into his Cuban office and shares these bitter thoughts: "Man, it's a mean political season."

Indeed, it is.

From the rhetoric of the candidates and their advertising to the conspiracy theories and invectives trafficked on the Internet by untold parties, the political process is awash in acrimony. The reasons vary.

It's a close election in a divided nation and the stakes are high — war in Iraq and on terror, just three years after the deadliest attack on U.S. soil. President Bush has governed from the right after a disputed election. The previous president, Democrat Bill Clinton, lied about having sex in the Oval Office with an intern and was impeached for it.

Bush and Clinton galvanized their rival partisans.

And through all this rose the Internet — a megaphone for every disgruntled, disenchanted or disturbed individual who wants to make a point. The "Silent Majority" is booming.

"Bush is a monster," read an e-mail signed DBarrett and sent to news organizations after the first debate. "Kerry is a craggy-faced puke," read the second. In 1997, the first year of Clinton's second term, about 43 million American adults used the Internet at home or work. More than 140 million use it now.

It doesn't stop there:

■ Vice President Dick Cheney curses a lawmaker on the Senate floor. Alan Keyes calls Cheney's lesbian daughter a selfish hedonist.

■ Republican question Sen. John Kerry's combat medals.

■ Democrats denounce Bush's service in the Texas Air National Guard.

■ Kerry calls Bush's Republicans "the most crooked ... lying group I've ever seen."

These and other invectives reverberated in the echo chamber of cable TV's 24-hour news cycle — another innovation that has reinvented politics in the last generation.

Elizabeth Osoff, an expert in political

To our readers

With the U.S. presidential election two weeks away, Stars and Stripes will refrain from publishing letters to the editor that pertain to the election and specific candidates in editions that carry publication dates of Oct. 20 through Nov. 4.

This prevents a situation in which a letter that introduces new information about a candidate yet contains a factual error appears before Election Day, Nov. 2, without the error being corrected before votes are cast in the States. Even though many Stripes readers are overseas and vote by absentee ballot, many others read Stripes online and will vote in the States on Nov. 2.

psychology at St. Anselm College in Manchester, N.H., said America has seen worse — "If you look at what John Adams said about Thomas Jefferson, it was pretty nasty stuff," but not in a while. She attributes the spike in hate partly to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"We had sort of an us-against-them mentality and that has spilled over into the way people justify the choices they're making in politics," she said.

But that atop a shaky economy, a controversial war in Iraq and a rapidly changing culture with anxiety — and you've got a potent political psychosis.

"When anxieties rise, people try to find a way to make themselves feel better. And one way to feel better is to try to find a scapegoat," Osoff said.

Bush is the Democrats' scapegoat. Polls show a significant amount of Kerry's support comes from Democrats who are motivated by their hatred of the president, not their loyalty to Kerry.

And so it goes:

■ A television ad by a Democratic in-group compares Bush to Adolf Hitler.

■ Former President Bush calls filmmaker Michael Moore a curse word and "a slimeball."

■ Cheney suggests that electing Kerry will make the nation more vulnerable to attacks.

■ Kerry mentions Cheney's openly gay daughter, Mary, in the final presidential debate to score a political point on gay rights.

"This is not a good man," retorts Cheney's wife, Lynne. "What a cheap and tawdry political trick."

■ College Republicans urge backers to cause "a general ruckus to disrupt" a Kerry event in Iowa. The Bush-Cheney campaign accuses the AFL-CIO of acts of

vandalism at a handful of its offices around the country.

It can border on the comical. Internet partisans spread unsubstantiated rumors that a bulge in the back of Bush's suit coat was a transmission device allowing his aides to feed him answers during the first debate.

Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano said both parties deserve blame for the escalation of evisceration, but part of it is the sign of the times.

"The big issues are so hard, so complicated. Health care is complicated. Immigration is complicated. Iraq is complicated," she said. "It's easier to get your arms around whether President Bush is a dummy who has had his lines fed to him. It's easier to think John Kerry is a fraud because of what some guys from Vietnam say."

"These are easy labels, which are seductive when you're trying to grapple with issues that are so large and full of nuance," the governor said.

Politicians are simply following the public's lead. A nation that coins the phrase "road rage" and watches reality TV shouldn't be surprised when its elected officials are less than civil.

And when voters are evenly divided, as they are in this presidential election, the tough slog for victory can bring out the worst in candidates and their allies.

"Contempt has become legitimized and institutionalized in American politics," said Stanley A. Renshon, a psychoanalyst and political scientist at the City University of New York. "The volume of it and frequency is all very new."

Ron Fournier has covered politics for The Associated Press since 1993.

Tell us what you think

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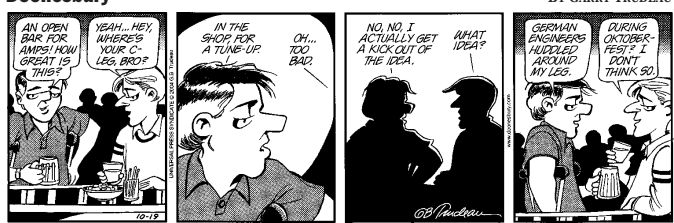
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BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury



OPINION

We can limit the price we pay for use of oil

The Providence (R.I.) Journal

Can the United States kick the oil habit? A new study says the oil can.

It may ultimately have little choice, with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez saying that oil could fairly soon cost as much as \$100 a barrel. But high oil prices have a silver lining: They encourage oil-consumption efficiency. This was a lesson of the Arab oil embargo of the 1970s, which led to increased fuel-efficiency — which paid off, at least for a while, in increased economic growth and reduced dependence on oil imports. By the mid-1980s, the '70s oil-price surge had led to a 17 percent decline in oil consumption and a 50 percent drop in imports, while gross domestic product grew by 27 percent.

Unfortunately, though, it wasn't a lesson that we retained.

Imported oil now accounts for about 56 percent of U.S. consumption — up from about 35 percent in the mid-'80s. Lowering that percentage would greatly improve national security, largely because much oil comes from such unstable places as Venezuela, the Mideast and Africa.

It would also improve the resilience of the U.S. economy, since oil costs affect the cost of just about everything else. On

top of that, there's global climate change.

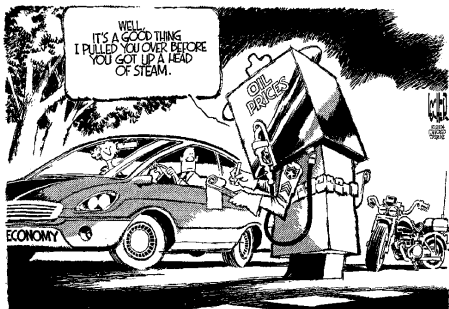
The new study, conducted by the Colorado-based Rocky Mountain Institute (funded partly by the Defense Department), suggests that we respond to high oil prices by retrofitting for alternative energy sources and by more efficiently using oil. Titled "Winning the Oil Endgame: American Innovation for Profits, Jobs and Security," the study's report says that in ten decades we can halve our fossil-fuel use, through such alternatives as biofuels and hydrogen.

The report even asserts that by 2050 the United States can be oil-free, save for some oil used as fuel to produce hydrogen.

That's way down the road, but many of the positive effects on national security and the economy would occur much sooner.

Amory Lovins, the Rocky Mountain Institute's director, was an alternative-energy guru in the oil-embargo days. Now he promotes carbon fiber for the bodies of "ultra light" cars, which could get 85 miles a gallon and still be safe. To start the ball rolling, he proposes a "feebate," a subsidy for fuel-efficient cars, raised from tax on gasoline guzzlers.

The Pentagon is interested because it is the world's biggest oil buyer. A little effi-



ciency goes a long way in the defense budget.

Military planners also think that fuel efficiency could make the military more effective, as well as removing oil as a source of global conflicts. Says Lovins:

"Imagine, too, our moral clarity if other nations no longer assume everything the United States does is about oil."

High oil prices cause hardship. But this report should help us focus on their related opportunities.

Let Afghans' Election Day bravery end our apathy

BY MAJ. JEFFERY E. MCCLANE

Election Day, Oct. 9. No, not in the United States but in Afghanistan. The Afghan Presidential Election took place this month and I was an instrumental part in ensuring that it took place.

I was activated from the Indiana Army National Guard to active service to serve in Afghanistan (yes, we still have military forces in Afghanistan) to work as an embedded trainer with the Afghan National Army. Actually it is a great assignment and a wonderful opportunity for an officer with more than 21 years of military service, such as myself, to be able to work as a tactical adviser and mentor of another military force some 7,200 miles from my home in Noblesville, Ind.

The United States is just one of numerous countries that are working with Afghanistan to help it rebuild. Much like the man who is stuck at the bottom of a well and cannot get by himself, such is a good way to describe the current condition in Afghanistan. After a 10-year occupation of the former Soviet Union and then a 23-year civil war, this country is devastated. The United States and many other countries are joining together to help rebuild Afghanistan — to raise it up out of the ashes. That is why the military presence here is called Task Force Phoenix. I am just one member of Task Force Phoenix III. And I recently started my one-year tour working with the ANA.

In the months leading up to the Afghan presidential election there were many incidents and threats of incidents waged by the Anti-Coalition Militia. In fact, the election date was postponed twice due to the amount of violence and risk to the candidates and general populace. But thankfully the election was not postponed again and did indeed take place Oct. 9.

The role that I served was working directly with the ANA and running mounted security patrols and executing roving checkpoints that assisted in preventing freedom of movement for the ACM. This greatly reduced the threat these enemy forces could bring to bear on the brave individuals working to help facilitate the elections.



Special to Stars and Stripes

Jeffery E. McClane, a major in the Indiana Army National Guard, is serving as an adviser and mentor to Afghanistan's army.

The election was important because it shows that the people of Afghanistan want a democratic government that can work to rebuild what once was a beautiful country. It also served to unite the brave people of Afghanistan toward one cause: to elect, by popular vote, one man and his two running mates to serve as vice presidents to

work toward making Afghanistan a great country again. This is significant since it is largely a decentralized country.

The day of the election I was on mounted patrols with the ANA as we drove the treacherous roads from one populated area to another to ensure that the roads were free of improvised explosive devices — as well as safe from enemy activity — so that the people could make their way to the designated polling stations to cast their votes.

I have twice referred to the people of Afghanistan as being brave. This is because they literally risked their lives to travel from their homes to the polling stations in order to exercise their newly found privilege of casting their vote. I heard reports about attacks that took place all across the country on polling centers by the ACM to prevent and discourage people from voting and to frighten voting staffers from carrying out their duties. But it was all in vain as the Afghan people went anyway and voted. They even had separate voting sites for women (as it is a much different culture here and women still, for the most part, are not allowed to interact freely with men). I was told by another officer that he saw one polling station just for women and the

women were coming in droves to vote. What a great day for Afghanistan!

Election results are not known at this time since the ballots have to be transported from all over the country to secret, and highly protected, ballot counting sites and the process is completely manual. But to know that I was an integral part of such a historic day in Afghanistan's history makes me proud to be here and a part of the U.S. military.

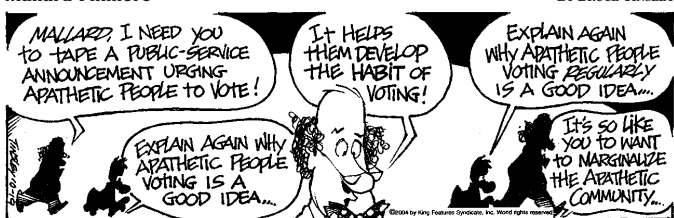
Now I ask you, how precious is the right to vote to you? In America we don't have to dodge bullets, rocket-propelled grenades or rocket attacks in order to go to cast our vote. The people of Afghanistan did and were happy to have the opportunity to do so. So I am asking all who read this: Will you ensure that you make the time to exercise your privilege to vote or will you blow it off as does the majority of the American populace?

I have been ordered to serve my country for more than a year in an effort to help Afghanistan. I would much rather be home. So I am asking you to please don't take our sacrifice in vain and throw away the opportunity to vote. Doing so only diminishes you, the men and women of the armed forces, and our great nation, the United States.

Maj. Jeffery E. McClane is serving in the infantry with the Indiana Army National Guard in Afghanistan.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY





Quick Trips

Spain's windy city

Tarifa becomes known as the 'Costa del Windsurf'

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER
Stars and Stripes

The wind that sweeps across Tarifa, Spain, drives people crazy. That is why many Spaniards warn about the town. The unrelenting wind blows away good-hair days along with — some claim — a person's sanity. The city is known for having one of the highest suicide rates in Europe, and many locals blame the incessant wind.

But that same wind makes the town a haven for windsurfing enthusiasts from across the globe. Some consider Tarifa the windsurfing capital of the world, or "Costa del Windsurf," as one city road sign proclaims.

Hundreds of windsurfers and kite surfers go to Tarifa annually to take advantage of the same wind that powers the modern propeller windmills that line the nearby hills.

Although windsurfing wasn't founded until the late 1960s in California, the sport is now an indelible part of the laid-back culture. The area around Tarifa is filled with surf shops advertising rental gear and lessons in several languages for those who want to learn more about it or kite surfing.

On a typical day, the golden Los Lances beach is filled with dozens of colorful surfers trying to tame the gusts and currents. Last August, it was not unusual to see as many as 300 surfers, some of them kite surfers flying more than 100 feet into the air.

If you don't know how to kite-surf, there are plenty of schools to choose from.

Matheau Guyon, a Frenchman who teaches kite surfing at Tarifa Max Sports, said the area is perfect for beginners because the beaches are wide and there are no rocks. Guyon, a self-taught windsurfer, said kite surfing has become so popular because it is easier than windsurfing and enthusiasts can pack all of the equipment in a car trunk. "It's easy," he said. "After one hour, you can really learn how to control it."

But you don't have to be a surfer to see and enjoy Tarifa. The town's surfing culture and proximity to Morocco attract an eccentric international crowd that makes for entertaining people-watching. In the old city, it's not unusual to see a mixture of



PHOTOS BY SCOTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes

A kite surfer prepares to make a turn and another pass in Tarifa, Spain. On a typical day, the golden Los Lances beach is filled with dozens of colorful surfers trying to tame the gusts and currents.

European surfers in Rasta-style dreadlocks kicking back in the cafes and seafood restaurants with lawyers and British jet-setters.

In June, President Bush's daughter, Jenna, visited. Her appearance attracted worldwide attention after her Secret Service agents got into a fight with two men trying to steal a cell phone near the 22-year-old Bush.

Many people pass through Tarifa to take the high-speed ferries that make the crossing to Morocco in about 30 minutes, but most visitors come for the breathtaking views of North Africa across the Strait of Gibraltar. On a clear day, you can easily see the Moroccan mountains across the strait.

"You can live next to the sea in a lot of places, but here the scenery changes every day," Guyon said. "Sometimes you can see fantastically Morocco. Sometimes you can see even the mountain full of snow in Morocco. ... It's always changing. The scenery is really beautiful."

You'll just have to withstand the crazy wind to see it.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauer@mail.eastripes.osd.mil.



PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes



The whipping winds that windsurfers love in Tarifa make an afternoon stroll a challenge. Still, the scenery is worth it: On a clear day you can see the Moroccan mountains across the Strait of Gibraltar.

On the QT



Directions

Tarifa is at the southernmost point of Spain, about 80 miles from Rota. From the naval station, take CA-613 to A-491. Take A-491 to N IV. Follow signs to Algeciras. Near San Fernando, the road changes to E-5; take it south until you see the exit sign for Tarifa.



Times

Most stores and shops close for lunch between 1:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. Most of the town monuments are open Tuesday through Sunday.



Costs

Parking in town is charged by the hour in prime locations, but there are some free spots a short walk outside the city center.

There are many schools that offer windsurfing and kite surfing in town and just north of Tarifa. Rates vary, but most schools charge between \$30 and \$60 an hour, depending on how many people are in a group. There are special rates for two- or three-day lessons.

Gear can cost more than \$100 to rent for the day.



Food

There are several restaurants and cafes in the center of town offering an array of seafood. Most restaurants offer locally caught tuna and sea bass.



Information

The Tarifa tourism office is in the center of town on Paseo de la Alameda at the end of the walking street. See the Web site www.andalucia.com for more information about Tarifa and the area.

— SCOTT SCHONAUER



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy with rain becoming cloudy in the afternoon. Highs in the mid to upper 50s. Wednesday lows in the lower to mid 40s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy becoming cloudy with rain showers in the afternoon. Highs in the mid to upper 50s. Wednesday lows in the mid 30s to upper 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy with solid rain showers and fog in the morning. Highs in the mid to mid 60s. Wednesday lows in the lower 30s to lower 40s.

France: Cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the lower 60s to lower 70s. Wednesday lows in the mid 50s to lower 60s.

Northern Germany: Cloudy with fog becoming mostly cloudy with rain showers in the afternoon. Highs in the lower to mid 40s. Wednesday lows in the lower to mid 40s.

Southern Germany: Cloudy with fog becoming mostly cloudy with rain showers in the afternoon. Highs in the lower 50s to lower 60s. Wednesday lows in the mid 40s to lower 50s.

Hungary: Cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the lower 60s. Wednesday lows in the lower 50s.

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy isolated t-storms. Highs in the lower 60s to lower 70s. Wednesday lows in the mid 50s to lower 60s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s. Wednesday lows in the lower 60s.

Kosovo: Mostly cloudy with morning fog. Highs in the lower 70s. Wednesday lows in the afternoon.

Norway: Cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the upper 40s to mid 50s. Wednesday lows in the lower to mid 40s.

Portugal, Spain: Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Highs in the lower to upper 70s. Wednesday lows in the lower 60s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s to lower 80s. Wednesday lows in the lower 60s.



AFRICA

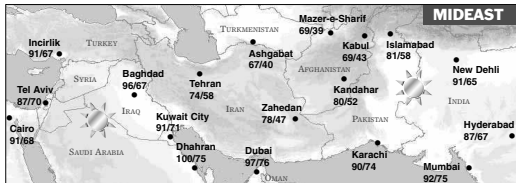
Cape Town	77	50	Mogadishu	84	76
Dakar	80	77	Nairobi	79	60
Freetown	88	77	Rabat	78	63
Harare	86	73	Tripoli	86	67

THE WORLD

Amsterdam	56	41	Manila	89	80
Batavia	85	78	Mexico City	72	56
Beijing	58	48	Montreal	47	34
Beirut	84	74	Niagra	88	72
Bermuda	86	71	Rio de Jan	78	71
Bombay	82	78	Sao Paulo	75	57
Calcutta	80	73	Singapore	84	60
Chennai	88	72	Sydney	76	64
Hong Kong	72	64	Tokyo	67	64

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Alaska, Tex.	51	36	Colorado Springs	57	30
Alaska, Ohio	51	36	Colorado, S.C.	57	30
Alaska, N.C.	51	36	Colorado, N.H.	51	35
Alaska, Tex.	51	36	Colorado, N.H.	51	35
Alaska, Tex.	51	36	Colorado, N.H.	51	35
Alaska, Tex.	51	36	Colorado, N.H.	51	35
Alaska, Tex.	51	36	Colorado, N.H.	51	35
Alaska, Tex.	51	36	Colorado, N.H.	51	35
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Alaska, Tex.	51	36	Colorado, N.H.	51	35



MIDEAST

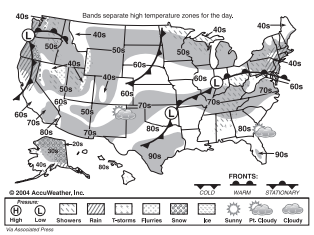
For current weather forecasts, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAF Operational Weather Squadron home page at <https://ows.sembach.af.mil>

SUN & MOON

Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:11 AM	Today	6:11 AM	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	7:55 AM	Today	7:55 AM	Tomorrow
Sunset (Baghdad)	5:25 PM	Today	5:25 PM	Tomorrow
Sunset (Frankfurt)	6:26 PM	Today	6:26 PM	Tomorrow

THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time



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STARS & STRIPES

Your HomeTown Newspaper

Best convicted

PA PHILADELPHIA — A man charged with shooting at a group of children following a snowball fight was convicted of attempted murder and other offenses.

Police said Joseph Best, 34, fired the shots into a crowd in West Philadelphia in February 2003 because he was angry that his daughter had been struck in the head by a snowball. Ten-year-old Ebony Smith was wounded in the shooting and spent two months in the hospital.

Jurors convicted Best of attempted murder, aggravated assault and weapons offenses. He will be sentenced in December. Best's fiancée, Cynthia Powell, 38, was acquitted of all charges other than weapons offenses.

"We wanted the person who pulled the trigger, Joseph Best," said Carol Smith, Ebony's mother, "and we got him."

Disastrous mistake

GA CORDELE — There was no "Day After Tomorrow" for Charles Alton Adams' mobile home, which the south Georgia man told police he set on fire after watching the disaster movie and drinking beer.

Adams, 32, walked into the Crisp County Law Enforcement Center and told deputies he had burned down the mobile home.

He told deputies that after watching "The Day After Tomorrow," a special-effects extravaganza depicting deadly natural disasters caused by global warming, and drinking nine or 10 beers, he decided to set fire to pillows on his bed.

When asked why, Crisp County Sheriff Donnie Haralson said, "I have asked that question myself.... The whole thing just doesn't really make sense."

Haralson said Adams was being charged with arson. He remained jailed as family members attempted to raise money for his bond.

Firefighter gets the boot

TX FORT WORTH — A veteran firefighter from the Southlake Department of Public Safety has been fired for supervising the hosing down of the Southlake Carroll band and color guard, injuring 13 students.

Also, a firefighter was suspended without pay for 120 days and a fire captain was given a one-day suspension without pay for involvement in the Aug. 4 event in the parking lot of Carroll High School.

Fire Lt. Jeff Powell, a 14-year veteran, was fired.

An internal investigation showed the three employees violated department safety policies. At times, the students were hit directly by the water; it was not directed over their heads, according to Southlake reports.

The band and color guard were hosed down as part of a spirit-motivating exercise.

Gun turned in

CA LOS ANGELES — The head of the police department's counterterrorism bureau has turned in the unlicensed handgun that airport screeners found in his carry-on luggage last month.

"He did it voluntarily," Sgt.



Catherine Plows, a police spokeswoman, said. "He just thought there was a lot of unnecessary press about it when there didn't need to be."

The police department had issued John Miller the .38-caliber Smith & Wesson, but it was never registered because of a paperwork glitch, officials said.

Miller, an ABC-TV reporter before he was hired for the security job, was off duty and traveling to New York to tape a farewell message for Barbara Walters, the retiring former "20/20" co-host, when airport officials discovered the gun.

He also turned in a second, licensed handgun and a sport utility vehicle equipped with a siren and emergency lights. Both were issued by the police department.

Democrats win in court

NH CONCORD — Democrats won a court victory allowing them to further investigate the illegal jamming of Democratic phone lines on Election Day 2002. The party planned, through depositions, to try to compel state Republican officials to disclose whether higher-level GOP operatives were involved in the jamming, state Democrats' Chairwoman Kathy Sullivan said.

"We want to know the names of

everybody involved," she said.

"We want to know where the money came from."

The jamming involved computer-generated calls to Democratic lines and one operated by the non-partisan Manchester firefighters' union, set up for voters who needed rides to the polls. More than 800 hang-up calls tied up phones for about 4½ hours.

The calls sparked a federal investigation that led former state GOP executive director Chuck McGee to plead guilty in July. He admitted paying \$15,600 to a Virginia telemarketing company that hired another business to call a handful of Democratic offices around the state.

Car safety questioned

IL BELLEVILLE — A jury in the first class-action lawsuit filed over the safety of Ford's Crown Victoria police cruisers ruled that the cars are safe, but a judge must now decide if the automaker violated state consumer fraud laws.

Class-action lawsuits are pending in at least 12 states over the Crown Victoria Police Interceptor, a specially built police cruiser that accounts for the majority of police cars on U.S. streets.

Since 1983, at least 15 officers nationwide have died in fiery crashes after their Crown Victorias were rear-ended — including one in Texas last month. Ford Motor Co. contends the deaths reflect officers' risky work rather than a design flaw.

Shooting investigation

VA NEWPORT NEWS — Police were investigating an incident in which a man in a car was shot and killed by officers after one officer was pinned between the man's car and a parked vehicle.

Police spokesman Lou Thurston said three officers on bicycles who had approached the car in the 900 block of 27th Street issued a distress call.

The man in the car, whose identity was not available, was shot after he attempted to run down one officer, Thurston said.

The man was pronounced dead at the scene with a gunshot wound to the torso. His body was sent to the medical examiner's office in Norfolk.

Guilty plea in porn case

VT BRATTLEBORO — A Rockingham man could go to prison for up to 20 years after he pleaded guilty to child pornography charges in federal court.

Ronald E. Frohock, 52, had been set to go to trial on the charges before he accepted a plea agreement. Under the agreement, Darrow agreed to dismiss 10 additional indictments against Frohock for the distribution of child pornography.

"There is absolutely no question about the ages of the children depicted," prosecutor William Darrow said in court documents.

"They were many years under the age of 18."

Sentencing is set for January. U.S. District Court Judge J. Garvan Murtha could hand Frohock a sentence of up to 20 years imprisonment. Based on several prior sex offense convictions in New Hampshire, Frohock will have to spend a minimum sentence of 10 years incarcerated.



Fishy snapshot

Donald Lamkin, 63, of Corpus Christi, Texas, sits inside a giant Fiberglas shark's head as he urges fairgoers to pay to have their photo made inside the shark's jaws during opening night of the 2004 South Texas State Fair in Beaumont, Texas.



Park fun

Fraternal twins Max, left, and Harry Evans, 17 months, fill a netshell with water from the water fountain at Triangle Park in Birmingham, Ala.

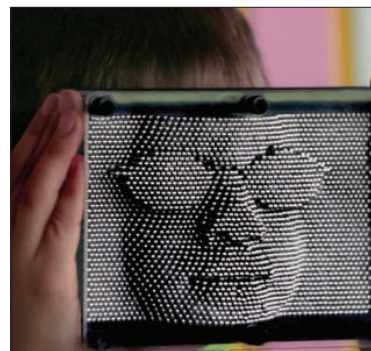


Street chitchat

Lincoln Elementary School crossing guard Amy Ramirez talks to sixth-graders, left, Eva Betancourt, 11, Damaris Morene, 11, and first-grader Joanna Villagran, 6, before they cross Center Street in Mesa, Ariz.



Sweet rewards Louisiana State University mass communications major Casey Gioia, 17, from New Orleans, La., concentrates as she places another Oreo cookie on her stack at the Highland Cafeteria on campus in Baton Rouge, La. She successfully stacked 48 of the cookies before it collapsed on the 49th. Contestants competed for top prize of an Oreo cookie jar.



Science is fun Aidan Ziegler-Hansen, 9, tries out a Pin Art he offered at the Science Factory store in Eugene, Ore. Hansen is part of the after-school science club at the Science Factory, which just started selling toys.



Church move Marble Lutheran Church's 100-mile journey comes to an end as the church arrives at the Shores of St. Andrew Camp in New London, Minn.



Go, fish Shark Attack, driven by Tyler Wallace, left, races Seafood Chef, driven by Daniel Cardenas, during Petersburg, Alaska's Humpy 500 go-kart races. The annual go-kart race celebrates the end of the salmon canning season on Niktoof Island.

Ferry's future unknown

ME PORTLAND — The cruise ferry Scotia Prince makes its last overnight voyage of the season from Portland to Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, but its future after that is uncertain.

Despite \$10 million spent on improvements to the ship, ridership dropped by 23 percent this year, according to Scotia Prince Cruises, which plans to keep the vessel in Portland over the winter while its owners decide whether to continue operations next year.

The 35-year-old ferry operation faces problems that go beyond the drop in business.

It could be getting competition from Bay Ferries Ltd., operator of The Cat, the high-speed ferry which now runs between Bar Harbor and Nova Scotia, and is hoping to expand to Portland.

Police officer arrested

HI HONOLULU — A former Honolulu police officer was arrested during a drug raid in Kalihi.

The 61-year-old man and three others are charged in the bust face various drug charges.

Police seized drugs, cash, chemicals to make crystal methamphetamine and a firearm from the home on Kamehameha IV Road.

In 1992, the then-officer was convicted of criminal conspiracy and sentenced to 10 years in prison for his involvement in five Hawaii Kai-area burglaries.

He provided confidential information he received in his capacity as a police officer and passed it on to another man who burglarized the homes.

Fire cause undetermined

MS JACKSON — Federal officials have completed their investigation of a fraternity house fire that killed three students at the University of Mississippi, including one from Virginia, but they were unable to pinpoint the cause.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives issued a report saying the cause of the blaze remains "undetermined."

The report said the fire that killed Howard Stone, 19, of Martinsville, Va., William Townsend, 19, of Clarksdale, and Jordan Williams, 20, of Atlanta, started in the early Aug. 27 in a basement bedroom of the Alpha Tau Omega house. Twenty-three students and a house mother escaped the fire at the two-story, brick-and-wood frame building.

ATF investigators said they found no evidence of foul play, and no evidence that electrical appliances near the fire's origin had failed.

Project nearly complete

ME PORTLAND — Maine's largest public works project in decades, the \$135 million widening of the Maine Turnpike, is just about finished.

The Maine Turnpike Authority will mark the occasion by painting a symbolic "final stripe" and opening the new lane on the last remaining section of the state's busiest highway: the six-mile stretch between Biddeford and Kennebunk.

Some minor landscaping and painting may continue into November, but the paving and major construction are complete.

The project took five years and came in on time and \$2 million under budget.

"You want to be joyful the project is over, but in many ways you kind of hate to see it go because it has gone so well," said Maine Turnpike Authority spokesman Dan Paradee.

Morning fire kills five

KS OLATHE — A pre-dawn house fire killed five members of a family in northeastern Kansas.

Olathe Fire Department spokesman Mike Hall said the fire broke out in the early morning. A son who survived the blaze ran to a neighbor's home and called 911, Hall said.

The victims were identified as Matthew and Rebecca Orr, both 46, and three of their children — Benjamin Orr, 18; Jeremiah Orr, 16; and Kyle Orr, 14. A seventh family member, a college student, was not home when the fire broke out.

Firefighters found four people dead inside the home, and the fifth victim died later at a hospital, Hall said. The son who survived suffered non-life-threatening injuries and was trying to help the victims when firefighters arrived.

A downtown Wal-Mart?

VT ST. ALBANS — The Preservation Trust of Vermont is hoping Wal-Mart Stores Inc. will move the store it has planned for the edge of the community to the city's downtown.

Preservation Trust Executive Director Paul Bruhn said he hoped Wal-Mart officials would remember his group's idea if the state or town denies approval for the store outside the city in the town of St. Albans.

Wal-Marts built in rural areas, like the one planned for U.S. 7, can cause sprawl as other national retailers cluster nearby, conservation groups say. Building downtown limits sprawl, leaving green pastures, cornfields and the like untouched.

Wal-Mart has already brushed off a similar recommendation made by the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Shrimp worker shortage

TX BROWNSVILLE — The federal aid government's cap on temporary foreign workers is forcing some shrimp boats to remain idle as shrimpers try to find crews, fishermen say.

Dolby Linwood's two boats often stay docked because he can't find qualified workers for the trips which often take between 30-50 days, a journey few local workers are willing to make, he said.

"We weren't able to get any [H2-B visas] for this year," Linwood said. "You can't find people here who are dependable. The locals take a trip and they don't want to go back." Linwood has relied in Mexican and Nicaraguan fishermen.

Chris Bentley, a spokesman for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in Washington, said plenty of H2-B visas are available for 2005. Applications became available Oct. 1. However, visas can take a minimum of two months to issue for the regular \$185 fee, Bentley said.

Stories and photos from wire services.

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil>

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2005

SCHEDULE: WEEKEND 12, 2001									
(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-CORP)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)		
9:00 Stanley	Mov • "Born Into Exile" (1997, Drama) Gina Prince-Bythewood	Dr. Phil	Bractec	Nightline	College Football (teams to be announced, (Taped))	35-Minute Meals	Bractec		
9:30 Sogus-Samees Cat	Two teenagers run away from home and head to California.	Arthur (E)	Jeopardy!	Nightly Business Report		Best for Less	Jeopardy!		
10:30 Behind the Lions (E)	Mov • "The Cane" (1995, Drama) Humphrey Bogart. Two rival officers rebel against their commander.	Oprah Winfrey	Guiding Light	Headline News		5 News	Headline News		
11:00 Sogus-Samees Cat	Mov • "The Cane" (1995, Drama) Humphrey Bogart. Two rival officers rebel against their commander.	General Hospital	Headline News	ESPNs	CNN Daybreak	News	ESPNs		
11:30 Stanley	Mov • "The Cane" (1995, Drama) Humphrey Bogart. Two rival officers rebel against their commander.	Dora the Explorer	Headline News	Advisory Block	The O'Reilly Factor	The King of Queens	Pacific Report		
12:00 The Wiggles "Movement"	Mov • "The Cane" (1995, Drama) Humphrey Bogart. Two rival officers rebel against their commander.	Judge Judy	Headline News	NFL Football Tampa Bay Buccaneers at St. Louis Rams. From the Edward Jones Dome (St. Louis, Live)		The '70s Show "Sleepover"	NFL Football Tampa Bay Buccaneers at St. Louis Rams. From the Edward Jones Dome (St. Louis, Live)		
13:00 Bob the Builder	Mov • "Patty in Paris" (1998, Drama) Miley Fitzgerald. A poor college teen is attracted by a wealthy classmate.	Today Caroline Rhea; Hall-Howard costumes.	Headline News	Good Morning America	World Sport	Charm'd "Blinded by the Whistle"	Charm'd		
13:30 Dragon Tales (E)	Mov • "Patty in Paris" (1998, Drama) Miley Fitzgerald. A poor college teen is attracted by a wealthy classmate.	Barney & Friends (E)	Headline News		NASCAR Racing Night Cup Series - UNIVIS-Quality Show From Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord, N.C. (Taped)	Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"	Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"		
14:00 Barney & Friends (E)	Mov • "Patty in Paris" (1998, Drama) Miley Fitzgerald. A poor college teen is attracted by a wealthy classmate.	Fall House "Afterchoke"	Headline News			Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"	Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"		
15:30 Full House "Afterchoke"	Mov • "Patty in Paris" (1998, Drama) Miley Fitzgerald. A poor college teen is attracted by a wealthy classmate.	Pokémon	Headline News			Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"	Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"		
16:30 Pokémon	Mov • "Patty in Paris" (1998, Drama) Miley Fitzgerald. A poor college teen is attracted by a wealthy classmate.	Yo-Gi-Oh! (Part 1 of 2)	Headline News			Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"	Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"		
17:30 Hey Arnold!	Mov • "Patty in Paris" (1998, Drama) Miley Fitzgerald. A poor college teen is attracted by a wealthy classmate.	The Entertainers	Headline News			Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"	Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"		
17:30 Rocket Power	Mov • "Patty in Paris" (1998, Drama) Miley Fitzgerald. A poor college teen is attracted by a wealthy classmate.	Behind the Scenes	Headline News			Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"	Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"		
18:00 Sogus/Song SquarePants	Mov • "Patty in Paris" (1998, Drama) Miley Fitzgerald. A poor college teen is attracted by a wealthy classmate.	Behind the Scenes	Headline News			Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"	Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"		
19:00 Rugs	Mov • "Patty in Paris" (1998, Drama) Miley Fitzgerald. A poor college teen is attracted by a wealthy classmate.	Behind the Scenes	Headline News			Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"	Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"		
19:30 The Amanda Show	Mov • "Patty in Paris" (1998, Drama) Miley Fitzgerald. A poor college teen is attracted by a wealthy classmate.	Behind the Scenes	Headline News			Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"	Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"		
20:00 Everwood "We Hold These Truths"	Mov • "Patty in Paris" (1998, Drama) Miley Fitzgerald. A poor college teen is attracted by a wealthy classmate.	Behind the Scenes	Headline News			Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"	Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"		
20:30 Sister, Sister "Hill Today"	Mov • "Patty in Paris" (1998, Drama) Miley Fitzgerald. A poor college teen is attracted by a wealthy classmate.	Behind the Scenes	Headline News			Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"	Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"		
21:30 Sister, Sister "Get a Job"	Mov • "Patty in Paris" (1998, Drama) Miley Fitzgerald. A poor college teen is attracted by a wealthy classmate.	Behind the Scenes	Headline News			Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"	Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"		
22:00 The Cosby Show	Mov • "Patty in Paris" (1998, Drama) Miley Fitzgerald. A poor college teen is attracted by a wealthy classmate.	Behind the Scenes	Headline News			Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"	Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"		
22:30 Home Improvement	Mov • "Patty in Paris" (1998, Drama) Miley Fitzgerald. A poor college teen is attracted by a wealthy classmate.	Behind the Scenes	Headline News			Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"	Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"		
23:00 Touched by an Angel "Flesh and Blood"	Mov • "Patty in Paris" (1998, Drama) Miley Fitzgerald. A poor college teen is attracted by a wealthy classmate.	Behind the Scenes	Headline News			Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"	Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"		
23:30	Mov • "Patty in Paris" (1998, Drama) Miley Fitzgerald. A poor college teen is attracted by a wealthy classmate.	Behind the Scenes	Headline News			Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"	Any Day Now "Elphinstone in the Room"		
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2001									
00:00 Hey Arnold!	Mov • "The Island of Dr. Moreau" (1996)	11:00m Today Show	Headline News	Nightline	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	11:00m Today Caroline Rhea; Hall-Howard costumes.		
00:30 Rocket Power	Mov • "The Island of Dr. Moreau" (1996)	Access Hollywood	Headline News	NBC Nightly News	NFL Center	5 News	Access Hollywood		
1:00 Sogus/Song SquarePants	Mov • "From Here to There" (1993, Drama) Burt Reynolds, Lance Reddick, John Amos, Lance Reddick, John Am								

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 20 25

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FACES

Love trying to settle legal fees dispute

Rocker Courtney Love's attorneys and a prominent law firm have agreed to try settling a dispute over legal fees out of court.

Superior Court Judge Gerald Rosenberg gave Love's lawyers and Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP until Feb. 5 to reach a settlement.

The two sides must report back on any agreement on Feb. 9, said Dane Gambill, a courtroom assistant. If no agreement is reached, the judge could then set a trial date.

Last November, the firm sued Love, Hole band mate Eric Erlandson and a company that owns the recording services of the band's members over claims of unpaid lawyer fees. The firm has represented Love in contractual matters.

Love, the widow of Nirvana singer Kurt Cobain, was formerly the lead singer of Hole. She had to delay a concert tour with her new band this year because of various legal problems.

This month, Love has hosted a weekly radio show on KOLD/KDLE-FM on which she plays recordings from her own collection as well as from the station's archives. The show runs through the end of October.

Jesse Jackson's birthday gets political

The Rev. Jesse Jackson celebrated his election-themed 63rd birthday party at a swank hotel, surrounded by California Democratic leaders and celebrity activists.

"It is, at once, my 63rd birthday and it is also mobilizing friends for a 19-day countdown to the Nov. 2 election," he said during a press conference before the party Thursday at the Beverly Hilton hotel.

Jackson urged people to get out and work "to stop the schemes of voter suppression," referring to allegations by federal civil rights monitors that the ballots of black Florida voters in 2000 were disproportionately tossed out due to faulty machinery and ballot problems.

Guests at the party included filmmaker Michael Moore, activist actor Matt Fells, former Gov. Gray Davis and U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters.

Judge wants Britney's explanation

A federal judge has ordered Britney Spears to explain why she failed to respond to a pre-emptive lawsuit filed by a diet supplement maker, who claims the pop star's lawyers threatened to sue for using her image without permission in marketing.

The complaint originated in a moment of clumsiness, when Spears was seen splashing a bottle of diet supplement Zantrex3 at London's Heathrow airport in October 2003 and scrambling to pick up the pills.

The fumble was captured on a flock of paparazzi, and London's Daily Express devoted a whole page to the incident.

A trio of Utah companies behind the supplement capitalized on the accident by invoking Spears in advertising, but they claimed Spears' lawyers threatened them to stop citing the episode or they would be sued.

Zoller Laboratories LLC, DG Enterprises and Basic Research LLC are asking a federal judge to declare they have violated no federal or state law with their marketing practices.

Prince music video creates controversy

The musician Prince is drawing fire for a new video that portrays an Arab-American girl envisioning herself blowing up an airport.

The video for the song "Cinnamon Girl" shows the girl, played by 14-year-old Oscar nominee Keisha Castle-Hughes of the movie "Whale Rider," facing harassment from schoolmates and witnessing racism in the wake of an attack that mirrors 9/11.

Steve Silberfarb, president of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota, said he applauds the anti-harassment message, but found a dream sequence in which the girl detonates a bomb at an airport disturbing.

Prince turned down an interview request through his Los Angeles-based publicist, Ronnie Lippin, who said the entertainer's goal was to provoke a discussion about the issues raised in the video. "If people are reacting with concern, I think the conversation is starting," she said.

Stories and photos from wire services



Moviegoers watch a free showing of Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11" in a field in Crawford, Texas. President Bush's supporters also gathered to protest the showing of the movie.

AP photos

Film makers bring politics to the screen

Editor's note: Arts and entertainment have long converged with politics. But this year, something different is in the air — and on movie screens, in bookstores, on the radio, and everywhere else media is consumed. This is the second part of the six-part series.

BY DAVID GERMAIN
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The vote is in: Political matters be come viable candidates on the big screen, with filmmakers and audiences roused by curiosity, patriotism or indignation to explore critical issues of the times.

Usually relegated to Sunday morning TV roundtables, current events and political content have become as commonplace in theaters as presidential wannabes in Iowa early in an election year.

Michael Moore's President Bush-bashing "Fahrenheit 9/11" has led the way, but dozens of other documentaries and a handful of dramatized films have arisen in the aftermath of the 2000 election mess, the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and the war on terrorism.

Moviegoers have made mini-hits out of such theatrical releases as "Control Room," an examination of Arab TV network Al-Jazeera's coverage of the Iraq war, and "The Fog of War," Errol Morris' Academy Award-winning compendium of Robert S. McNamara's insights on modern history and combat.

Political documentaries such as "Unprecedented: The 2000 Presidential Election," "Uncovered: The War on Iraq" and "Outfoxed: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism" have sold briskly on DVD.

"The voting public is energized," Moore said last summer, after "Fahrenheit 9/11" became the first documentary to top \$100 million at the domestic box office. "They are anxious to discuss politics, and I think since September 11, the American people have wanted to find out more of what's going on in the world."

Filmmakers and distributors have rushed in to satisfy that inquisitiveness.

Other issue-driven films newly released on film or DVD include "Horns and Halos," chronicling the saga of J.H. Hatfield's biography of President Bush "Fortunate Son," "Going Upriver: The Long War of John Kerry" and "Brothers in Arms," which explore the Democratic presidential candidate's Vietnam record and his subsequent stand against the war. "The Yes Men," following two anti-corporate pranksters posing as World Trade Organization representatives; "The Hunting of the President," examining efforts by Bill Clinton's enemies to discredit his administration; and "The War Room," the documentary hit about Clinton's 1992 campaign.

"I think this is the high-water mark for political filmmaking, but I don't think it's the end of the rising tide," said filmmaker Steve Rosenbaum, who is making "Inside the Bubble," a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the Kerry campaign.

"Under Clinton, we went through eight years in which things were kind of OK, the economy was going great, with the dot-com thing, everybody was going to be a millionaire. Now, we're on the back end of that. People are waking up, wondering, 'Where the hell is Sudan? Where is the Gaza

Strip? What did we do in Afghanistan?'"

That sense of bewilderment people have been feeling leaves intelligent people thinking.

Documentary directors tend to be left-leaning people, so the rush of political films reflects that liberal bent. But some films have delved into the conservative side or attempted to counter liberal viewpoints, among them "Bush's Brain," a portrait of the president's chief adviser, Karl Rove; "George W. Bush: Faith in the White House," and two documentaries rebutting Moore's work, "Michael Moore Hates America" and "Fahrenheit 9/11."

To an extent, the surge in political interest has spilled over to fictional films. "South Park" creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone's "Team America: World Police" parodies the U.S. war on terror using a cast of puppets. Denzel Washington starred in last summer's remake of the assassination thriller "The Manchurian Candidate," which used the Persian Gulf War as the root for a plot to usurp the White House. Robert Redford is developing a sequel to his 1972 political satire "The Candidate."

As with other forms of independent filmmaking, digital technology has helped swell the ranks of documentary directors.

What used to be a prohibitively expensive endeavor for cameras, lighting and film stock now can be undertaken by anyone with an idea and a few thousand dollars for a digital camera.

Commercial success of Moore's "Bowling for Columbine" and other documentary hits have broadened audience and distributor interest in nonfiction films in general.

Though audiences have embraced political films, the movie's potential to influence the elections is uncertain.



Giving away copies of his books and films on Oct. 1, Moore greets some members of the audience at Metrolink Park in Jacksonville, Fla.

Horoscope

The sun and Saturn have a heated exchange, and there's a chance to be made. Do we let our past experience dictate our future actions? Or do we wash the slate clean and try being someone else in the moment of decision — take the old leap of faith? Both roads can lead somewhere good if we resolve to keep ethics in line and honor intact.

Joyce Jillson



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(October 19): You're on top of the world this year. Your buoyant attitude attracts winners to you — people who can help you earn more money as well as bring you into social circles that are a positive influence on your personal development. Family connections and inherited talents are your key to success through the rest of the fall.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Your true success will come from the goodness of your character, so do things to build it. Keep your word even after you realize that it's more than you can comfortably do. Being uncomfortable is better than being flaky.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

You'll be among the top performers at work — an honor and a responsibility. You may even spend a decent amount of time wondering why you do what you do. Look deeper into your value system to find the answer.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Cultivate independence. Whether it's deciding where to go this weekend instead of relying on a partner to make plans for you or fixing the printer when the paper gets jammed, it will feel fabulous to accomplish things on your own.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Beware of fantasy love. It may feel temporarily wonderful to have someone so infatuated with you, but it usually gets old fast. After all, who wants the responsibility of making someone else's life decisions?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Relationships add to your life in unexpected and delightful ways. Make note of the graciousness you come upon so you can later acknowledge it well.

Anticipate a slight (and fleeting) dip in your confidence this evening.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You'll be considering your friendships very carefully. After all, you treat the ones you love so well, you simply don't deserve to be subjected to someone's using behavior. Try not to take others' actions too personally.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Aim for what you want. You're incredibly secure now. Beware of people who bother you with their "temporary" problems — all the time. Tonight, do more than you were asked to do.

You'll win the heart of someone worthy!

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

It's not quite time to lay down the law in a relationship, ask for a raise or put down the payment on that new car. But the research you do will help you immensely when it is that time — and you won't have long to wait!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You're filled with bravado — like an invincible 8-year-old who doesn't yet know enough about the world's limitations (and therefore is spared by many of them). You make fairly sound decisions when you shoot from the hip.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

People in your midst have earned a pat on the back, and you're just the one to give it. Have no ulterior motives. Delight in the good news of family and friends, even though you're feeling as competitive as it gets.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

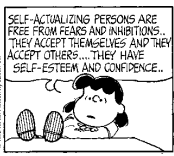
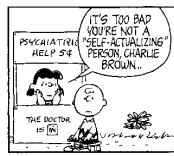
You'll stumble onto an endeavor that could turn into something you're passionate about. For this reason, you may be willing to start at the bottom. But you may not have to. Investigate options before saying "yes" too quickly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

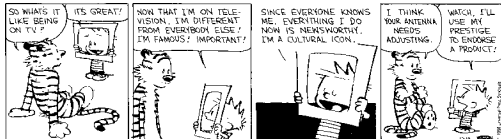
Dominating people are part of the equation at work. It's probably easier to let them have their little show of authority and then do whatever you want since these folks care more about getting attention than about being right.

Creators Syndicate

Peanuts



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



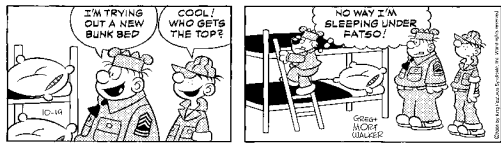
Cathy



Hi and Lois



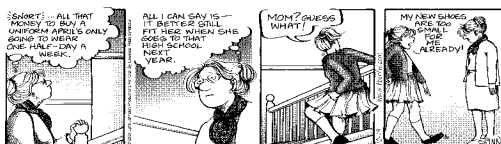
Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



Better or Worse





Foxtrot



B.C.



Bahv Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



ilbert

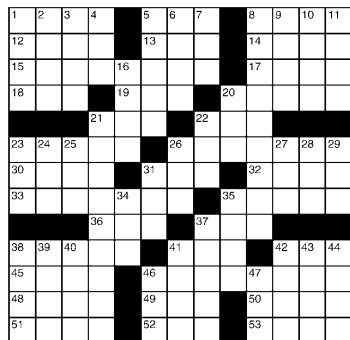


Hagar



Garfield

Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Coffee
- 5 Coll. transcript no
- 8 Hide in the hand
- 12 MPs' quarry
- 13 Started
- 14 Pennsylvania port
- 15 NBC
newsmagazine
- 17 Author James
- 18 Thread receiver
- 19 Hostel
- 20 Tonto's horse
- 21 Comprehend
- 22 "Humbug!"
- 23 Emotion, when
"struck"
- 26 Navigation device
- 30 Subtle
atmosphere
- 31 Lassie, for one
- 32 Nothing (Fr.)

Down

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Green mineral | 6 | fame |
| 2 | Vacationing | 26 | Fenway team, for |
| 3 | November
responsibility | 37 | short |
| 4 | Brewery product | 28 | Born |
| 5 | One of the 1,000
points of light? | 31 | Born with a kick |
| 6 | Ivy League team | 31 | Bencilio — Toro |
| 7 | Critic cooler | 34 | Grat free |
| 8 | Atlanta street | 35 | Seek strikes |
| 9 | Jason's craft | 37 | Indulged in wishful
thinking |
| 10 | Stead | 38 | Grub |
| 11 | Bump into | 39 | Anger |
| 12 | Committed
perjury | 40 | Some-where out
there |
| 13 | Clinton's
instrument | 41 | Made cotton candy |
| 14 | Gossip source | 42 | Comed-strip |
| 15 | Plead | 43 | Penguin |
| 16 | Upper limit | 43 | Picking her |
| 17 | Shade | 44 | Drop a line? |
| | | 46 | Oklahoma city |
| | | 47 | Inventor Whitney |

Answer to Previous Puzzle



10-19

CRYPTOQUIP

N D Z O Z S R Z P U U N A
D N S M N S R N F K Z P M F U
Y J V O . A K U J X M K L Y J A F

FZOL AUVL XLZQNSR QNXXA?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AQUATIC SUPERHERO
 THAT IS QUITE ADEPT AT MAKING QUACKING
 NOISES: EIDER-MAN!

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals O

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Kurt Busch (97) spins on the first lap of the UAW-GM Quality 500 after bottoming involved in a wreck triggered by a car missing a gear change. Busch battled back to finish fourth in the race and protect his lead in the Chase for the Cup through five of 10 races in the series.

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Hard night's work pays off

Busch overcomes first-lap wreck and maintains lead in title drive

BY JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — If Kurt Busch goes on to win his first NASCAR title, he can point to the 500 miles at Lowe's Motor Speedway as the defining race of his season.

Busch rallied from a fender-bender in practice, a wreck on the first lap of the race, a battle with a temperamental car and avoided two near disasters.

All in a day's work for Busch, who emerged from the UAW-GM Quality 500 on Saturday night with a fourth-place finish and his lead in the driver standings intact.

"To be able to do this with dodging so many obstacles — it was the adventure of Kurt Busch and team," he said. "We did a good job of just avoiding disaster as many times as it did strike. We had to avoid this and avoid that and continue to make adjustments on our car."

That Busch and his Roush Racing team were able to survive, and leave Charlotte with a 24-point lead over Dale Earnhardt Jr. in the standings, doesn't bode well for the rest of the Chase for the Cup contenders.

He's somehow managed to avoid mistakes and overcome bad breaks through all five of the first 10 NASCAR playoff races. Busch has finished in the top 10 in each of the events, and heads into the stretch run with confidence, since he's won races at three of the remaining five tracks.

Asked Saturday night as if it was starting to seem like the package, and right now we're very blessed to be in this situation," he said.

The weekend got off to ominous start for Busch during Friday's practice session. With his younger brother, Kyle, in the race and struggling with his car during practice, Busch pulled up to his bumper in an effort to assess why Kyle wasn't running well.

He lost concentration for a split second, and bounced off the wall. His crew was able to make enough repairs to keep him from going to a backup car, but it was a very close call.

Then it took just 10 seconds of the race for his team to figure out what kind of night it was going to be. Scott Riggs missed a shift on the start, and his car became an obstacle for the rest of the speeding field.

It started a chain-reaction crash that damaged cars driven by Busch and third-place Chase driver Jeff Gordon.

After fixing the damage, Busch found the car was difficult to drive. Then Kevin Harvick blew an engine and dumped oil right in front of him, and Busch had to scramble to avoid it. He did, but Chase drivers Matt Kenseth and Jeremy Mayfield could not, and both crashed.

Spencer and Brendan Gaughan wrecked, and Busch had to drag through the infield grass to keep from becoming a participant. Chase drivers Mark Martin and Ryan Newman didn't, and both were collected in the mishap.

"It was a tall order of adversity to overcome," Busch said. "It was just far enough behind some of those accidents to stay away — having a blown motor in front of us, to have a few wrecks and just being able to avoid the disaster. It was an adventurous night and we were able to come away with a good finish."

USC, Miami are 1-2 in first BCS rankings

Oklahoma, No. 2 in both 'human' polls, is No. 5 in computer score

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

The Associated Press

Southern California took the top spot Monday in the season's first Bowl Championship Series standings, and surprisingly Miami is ahead of Oklahoma in a close race for the second spot.

Oklahoma is No. 2 behind USC in both The Associated Press Top 25 and coaches poll. Put in place after last season's split national championship, the new BCS formula relies more on the human polls than ever before.

"I think it's obviously very early. It's important that there not be an overreaction to this poll," BCS coordinator and Big 12 commissioner Kevin Weiberg said.

Still, even Weiberg was taken aback by Miami's position ahead of Oklahoma.

"I think I was a little surprised, to tell you the truth," he said.

The AP and coaches polls each count for one-third of a team's total score. The other third is compiled from six computer rankings, and that's where Miami made up the difference over the Sooners. The Hurricanes are ranked fourth in the AP media poll and third in the coaches poll, but are second in the computer rankings.

Oklahoma, which benefited



Reggie Bush scores a touchdown in USC's 45-7 rout of Arizona State on Saturday, an outcome that helped the top-ranked Trojans take a solid lead in the first Bowl Championship Series rankings of the season.

from the old system last season, was fifth in the computer rankings. Each team's highest and lowest computer ranking is tossed out and the remaining four are averaged.

Weiberg said that Oklahoma was probably hurt in the computer rankings by having played only one road game.

"Several of them use a home-and-away factor in their for-

mula so I think it has some influence, yes," he said.

Oklahoma has one victory over a ranked team (Texas), while Miami has two (Florida State and Louisville), which also sways computer rankings, Weiberg said.

The Orange Bowl will host the top two teams in the final BCS standings on Jan. 4 for the national title.

USC, No. 1 in each of the major

polls all season, has a big lead in the BCS with a score of .9912 out of a possible 1.0001. Miami's score is .9187, Oklahoma's .9161.

Auburn is fourth (.9036) and Florida State fifth (.8072). The Seminoles, with one loss, are ahead of unbeaten Wisconsin (.7255) and Utah (.7251).

The Utes, ranked ninth in the AP poll and 10th in the ESPN/USA Today poll, are in po-

sition to become the first team from outside the six major conferences to earn a bid to one of the four big-ticket BCS games.

The champions from the Atlantic Coast Conference, Big Ten, Big 12, Big East, Pac-10 and Southeastern Conference make up six of the eight teams in the four BCS games — the Orange, Sugar, Rose and Fiesta bowls. The other two spots go to wild-card teams.

Finishing in the top six in the BCS standings also guarantees a team a BCS bowl bid. A top-12 ranking in the final BCS standings is necessary to be eligible for one of the wild-card spots.

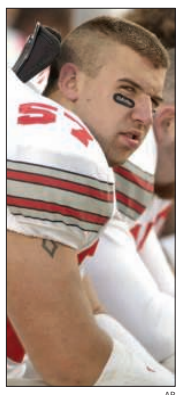
Utah plays in the Mountain West Conference and has a 3-0 record this season against teams from BCS conferences.

Boise State, the other unbeaten team from a mid-major conference, was 14th in the first BCS standings.

The BCS changed its formula for determining which teams play for the national title after last season, when USC finished the regular season ranked No. 1 in both polls, but third in the BCS standings and was left out of the title game.

Oklahoma reached the title game last season because of flaws in the old BCS formula. The Sooners lost the Big 12 title game and dropped to No. 3 in the major polls, but still finished first in the BCS standings. They were beaten in the Sugar Bowl by LSU, which mandated a vote of No. 1 in the coaches poll. USC ended up No. 1 in the media poll.

Under the system in place this season, LSU and USC would have played in the Sugar Bowl last season.



Ohio State's Mike Kudla (57) blocks at the scoreboard as he can't believe that the Buckeyes are on the short end of a 33-7 score against resurgent Iowa.

After Iowa rout, Ohio State headed south

BY CHUCK SCHOFFNER

The Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — One month ago, Ohio State was winning and Iowa was reeling.

Oh, how things have changed. Ohio State, once 3-0 and ranked seventh nationally, is 0-3 in the Big Ten and no longer in the Top 25 after a 33-7 loss at Iowa on Saturday — its worst record in the league in 16 years.

Iowa is getting better by the week and looks nothing like the overmatched team that lost to Arizona State 44-7 on Sept. 18. The Hawkeyes (4-2, 2-1 Big Ten) might not be of championship caliber, but are certainly good enough to be a factor in the conference race.

On Sunday, they replaced Ohio State at No. 25 in The Associated Press poll.

"We're going in the right direction," Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz said.

Ferentz hesitates to say the Arizona State loss was good for his team, but it did force the Hawkeyes to refocus. They played better in a 30-17 loss at Michigan the following week and

beat Michigan State and Ohio State by a combined 71-23.

"There are two ways to go when you do that," Ferentz said. "You can either be realistic and make sure you're determined to change what took place or you can stay on the ground. Our guys traditionally have gotten back up and gone back and to work and I think that's what we've done."

Ohio State (3-3) faces the same sort of challenge because the Buckeyes most certainly are down. Their ineptitude on offense reached a new low Saturday and the defense had no answer for Iowa quarterback Drew Tate, who threw for 331 yards and three touchdowns and ran for a score.

Who could have imagined an Ohio State team rushing for only 27 yards? But that's all the Buckeyes managed, as well as losing two fumbles to set up 10 Iowa points. Ohio State's only decent drive in the first half ended with an interception in the end zone.

It took Troy Smith's 23-yard touchdown pass to Rory Nixon with 2:19 left to keep Ohio State from being shut out for the first time since a 28-0 loss to Michigan

in 1993. Ohio State totaled just 177 yards, 73 coming on that last drive.

"I don't know if I would say that we're doing anything well," Ohio State coach Jim Tressel said. "I think the statistics can point to that or a gut feeling can point to that."

Iowa's improvement has paralleled the maturation of Tate, a sophomore in his first season as the starter. He has bounced back from a miserable outing at Arizona State — 8-for-19 for 44 yards — to become the focal point of the Hawkeyes' offense.

In three Big Ten games, he has completed 70 percent of his passes for 941 yards and six touchdowns. Tate also has shown an ability to scramble out of trouble and throw on the run. On an 11-yard touchdown pass to Clinton Solomon on Saturday, the right-handed quarterback was rolling left and threw a perfect strike across his body.

"The more I play, the better I see things," Tate said. "I've even started changing the protection. I don't think that's been done around here for a while."

Tressel changed quarterbacks

after starter Justin Zwick fumbled on the second play of the third quarter, setting up an Iowa touchdown that made it 17-0. Zwick got hit on the shoulder in the first half and Tressel said he wasn't sure how well he could throw.

Smith was hardly an immediate spark, guiding the Buckeyes to only 15 yards in five possessions before leading the late drive.

"He did a couple of good things, obviously, on that last drive," Tressel said. "He did the things you need to do to move the ball. I thought he went in and did some pretty good things."

Tressel has a week to decide if Smith did enough to warrant more time Saturday at home against Indiana (2-4, 0-3). Ohio State hasn't lost to Indiana since 1988, but such streaks don't seem to matter anymore. The Buckeyes had not lost at Iowa since 1983 and they had a 24-0 victory in the streak against Northwestern broken two weeks ago.

"We are trying to get it done. We just need to keep winning at it," tight end Ryan Hamby said. "Nobody is going to give up. We will just keep plugging away."

Boston averts sweep

Ortiz's home run in 12th wins it; Yankees' ALCS lead is cut to 3-1

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Early in the morning, when most fans usually are tucked in bed, David Ortiz set off a frenzy at Fenway Park that gave the Boston Red Sox a shot at pulling off the greatest comeback ever.

The Red Sox were down to their last three outs of the season, close to extinction. Then Boston rallied against Mariano Rivera, the New York Yankees and decades of disappointment.

Bill Mueller singled home the tying run off Rivera in the ninth inning and Ortiz nerved into the right-field bullpen against Paul Quantrill in the 12th, giving Boston an exhilarating and exhausting 6-4 victory. The Red Sox avoided a sweep and claimed a fifth game in the AL championship series.

"This," Ortiz said, "is a team that never gives up."

Many fans who had been praying, holding hands and hoping against hope a few innings earlier, burst into cheers when Ortiz connected. Long after Sunday turned into Monday, there was still plenty of energy inside old Fenway Park.

Even Ortiz danced home to his teammates waiting at the plate. "We always find a way to make it hard for ourselves," Red Sox starter Derek Lowe said.

This game lasted 5 hours, 2 minutes and ended at 1:22 a.m. EDT. Saturday's 19-8 victory by the Yankees took 4 hours, 20 minutes.

And the teams had about 15 hours to prepare for Game 5, when Pedro Martinez drew the pitching assignment for the Red Sox against Mike Mussina.

"Everybody's going to have trouble sleeping, probably except maybe from exhaustion," Yankees manager Joe Torre said.

Of the 25 previous teams to fall behind 3-0 in a best-of-seven series, 20 were swept, three lost in five games and two lost in six. The Red Sox say if they win again, injured Curt Schilling would be ready to start Tuesday in New York.

"We've just got to get to Game 6," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said.

Quantrill, New York's fifth pitcher, relieved Tom Gordon to start the 12th and allowed a lead-off single to Manny Ramirez.



Boston's Dave Roberts slides home with the tying run against New York Yankees in the ninth inning Sunday night. Boston won Game 4 of the AL championship series 6-4 in 12 innings, but still trails 3-1 in the series.

Ortiz then joined New York's Bernie Williams as the only players to hit two game-ending homers in postseason play. Ortiz is the first to do it twice in one year.

"Ortiz is just a great hitter, and he beat me," Quantrill said.

Boston was facing a disappointing end to a successful season when Rivera walked Kevin Millar to lead off the ninth.

"You put the walk away, and it would have been totally different," Rivera said. "It wasn't the way I planned it today."

After some pickoff throws, pinch-runner Dave Roberts stole second on the first pitch to Mueller.

"The three pickoff moves got me back into the game. I hadn't played in a while, and it helped me get a lid of the jitters," Roberts said.

Mueller then lined the ball up

the middle as Roberts easily scored from second and Rivera swung his right arm in disgust. He has blown just four saves in 36 postseason chances, but two have come in the past 12 days.

"It certainly is disappointing," Torre said. "We're so used to Mo going out there and getting people out, which he did tonight. It's just that the walk and stolen base was the difference in that ninth inning."

With Boston closer Keith Foulke already having pitched 2½ innings, Alan Embree came in and got through the 10th. Curt Schilling escaped an 11th-inning jam by retiring Williams on a bases-loaded flyout, then stranded a runner at second in the 12th by striking out Miguel Cairo.

"Their bullpen did a great job. They made pitches when they had to," New York shortstop

Derek Jeter said. "We definitely let opportunities get by."

The Yankees, who stranded 14 runners, took a 2-0 lead in the third. After Jeter singled with two outs off Lowe, Alex Rodriguez hit a drive to left field over an advertising sign atop the Green Monster, his second homer in two nights.

Sidelined since Oct. 1 with a tired shoulder, Yankees starter Orlando Hernandez baffled Boston with pitches ranging from a 91 mph fastball to a 55 mph curve. Then, in the fifth, the Red Sox went ahead 3-2 on three walks, Cabrera's RBI single and Ortiz's two-run single.

The Yankees came back to score twice in the sixth, with Hideki Matsui starting the rally with a one-out triple. He scored on an infield hit, one of two run-scoring triplets for New York in the inning.

Ray Boone, baseball family patriarch, dies

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Two-time All-Star Ray Boone, patriarch of a three-generation baseball family, died early Sunday following a long illness. He was 81.

Boone had been hospitalized for six months with complications following surgery, his wife, Pat, said.

"It's a blessing," she said. "He had a great life."

Boone played from 1948-60 with six teams and was followed

into the big leagues by son Bob and grandsons Bret and Aaron.

"We were the first three-generation family," Pat Boone said. "We're not the only one, but we were the first."

Boone was an infielder who had a career .275 batting average, with 151 home runs and 737 RBIs. He played for the Cleveland Indians, Detroit Tigers, Chicago White Sox, Kansas City Athletics, Milwaukee Braves and the Boston Red Sox.

He was an All-Star third baseman for Detroit in 1954 and 1956.

Bob Boone played from 1972-90, and Bret Boone broke into the big leagues with Seattle in 1992. Aaron Boone made his debut in 1997.

The Boone family was the first to send three generations to the All-Star Game.

In 2000, when Bret Boone played for San Diego, he and his father and grandfather threw out the ceremonial first pitch before the Padres' home opener.

Schilling will start Game 6 if it's played

BY JIMMY GOLEN
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Pedro Martinez and Curt Schilling will try to help the Boston Red Sox win it, now that David Ortiz kept them in it.

Ortiz's homer in the 12th inning Sunday night gave the Red Sox a 6-4 victory over the New York Yankees, extending the AL championship series to a fifth game. Martinez drew the Game 5 start Monday night to try to force the series back to New York for a sixth game and give Schilling a chance to make up for a disastrous start in the opener.

"We've just got to get there," manager Terry Francona said after announcing that Schilling was healthy enough to get another start. "But that's our rotation."

The Red Sox traded for Schilling last November with the goal of pairing him with Martinez in a 1-2 pitching punch few teams could match. The co-aces helped Boston win 98 games in the regular season and sweep the Anaheim Angels in the first round of the playoffs.

But Schilling, who hurt his right ankle near the end of the regular season, aggravated the injury during his start in Anaheim.

And when he pitched Game 1 of the ALCS last Tuesday, his tendon sheath kept him from pushing off the mound and affected his velocity. New York won 10-7 on the way to taking a 3-0 series lead.

Schilling was still too sore on Thursday to get back on the mound, so he was scratched from his scheduled Game 5 start. But he was able to warm up normally on Friday and again on Sunday, giving Francona the confidence to restore him to the rotation.

"As far as I'm concerned, it's not an issue," Francona said. "We've just got to get to Game 6."

Schilling helped lead the Arizona Diamondbacks to victory over New York in the 2001 World Series.

"When you use the words 'mystique' and 'aura,' those are dancers in a nightclub," Schilling said. "Those are not things we concern ourselves with on the ballfield."

After joining the Red Sox, Schilling proclaimed, "I guess I hate the Yankees now." After regular season starts he could be spotted wearing a "Yankee Hater" cap. But when he got the opportunity to back up his words in the playoffs, his ankle let him down.

Schilling allowed six runs in three innings in the series-opening loss, his worst postseason performance since 1993.

"He looked forward to this possible match-up as far back as Thanksgiving last year," Francona said last week. "When he went out there, he was kind of unable to pitch like he wanted to, I'm sure that was very tough for him, and us, too."

Unbeaten Eagles pummel Panthers

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Philadelphia beat Carolina nine months to late.

In a rematch of last season's NFC championship game in Philadelphia, Terrell Owens had all of his 123 yards receiving in the first half and Lito Sheppard returned an interception 64 yards for a score in the undefeated Eagles' 30-9 victory Sunday.

The Eagles, in position for another playoff run, didn't need their best offensive effort to beat injury-depleted Carolina.

Owens failed to score, Donovan McNabb failed to throw a TD pass for the first time this year and the Eagles' 283 total yards were their fewest of the season.

"We put up enough points for us to win the game and that's the most important thing," McNabb said. "You can look at some of the team across the league and offensively they aren't clicking, but they are still winning."

The Eagles haven't lost since Carolina came to town for a 1-3 victory in the NFC title game, denying Philadelphia its first trip to the Super Bowl since the 1980 season. But the Eagles, who have lost three consecutive conference championship games, have come back strong, starting 5-0 for the first time since 1981.

Carolina, which lost to New England in the Super Bowl, fell to a 1-4. Only eight teams have overcome a 1-4 start to make the playoffs.

"I felt the best going into this game than I did all year. I just felt extremely good about what we're going to do out here," said Carolina's Jake Delhomme, who threw four interceptions. "It's just not happening. We're not carrying over."

Perhaps because while Delhomme struggled, there was no one else to bail him out. When Philadelphia's offense didn't convert long drives into touchdowns, it still got three field goals from David Akers and the interception return from Sheppard.

"He was just throwing it up, giving his receivers a chance to make a play," Sheppard said of Delhomme. "We were able to pick off a lot of passes. We know he doesn't

like to take sacks a lot. He just throws it up there."

McNabb, off to the best start of his six-year career, completed passes of 53 and 51 yards to Owens that led to 10 points. McNabb finished 14-for-26 for 209 yards and one interception.

Packers 38, Lions 10: Brett Favre threw two touchdown passes and moved past Fran Tarkenton into fourth place on the NFL career list with 47,106 yards passing.

Green Bay (2-4) snapped its first four-game losing streak in 13 years. Detroit (3-2) fell to 1-2 at home.

The game was close until Darren Sharper intercepted a pass early in the third quarter and returned it 36 yards — with a juke move and a hurdle into the end zone — to give the Packers a 24-10 lead.

Favre was 25-for-38 for 257 yards. He extended his streak with a TD pass to 11 games, passing Dan Marino and trailing only Johnny Unitas' record run of 47 straight. Favre played in his 197th game with the Packers, passing Bart Starr for No. 1 in franchise history.

Texans 20, Titans 10: At Nashville, David Carr threw for 266 yards and a touchdown, Kris Brown kicked field goals of 21 and 50 yards, and the Texans scored their first victory over the team they replaced in Houston.

The Texans improved to 3-3 for the first time in the franchise's three-season history by winning in the stadium Nashville built to lure the former Oilers away from Houston. The Texans did it with defense, intercepting four passes and sacking Steve McNair once.

The loss dropped the Titans (2-4) into sole possession of the AFC South cellar.

Falcons 21, Chargers 20: At Atlanta, Michael Vick threw a 10-yard TD pass by running for one touchdown, throwing for another and then taking care of the clock as the Falcons (5-1) matched their win total from all of last season.

Vick, whose rights were traded from San Diego to Atlanta in 2001, threw for 130 of his 218 yards in the fourth quarter and had a hand in all three Atlanta TDs.

Atlanta ended the Chargers' (3-3) two-game winning streak and kept them

actually no player has retired at No. 1, but I don't think that's going to matter at all," Davenport said in a conference call.

"I feel like I play for the opportunity and the chance to win Grand Slams. I had two chances this year at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open," she added. "I'm looking forward to going to Australia and trying to win again, and that's definitely the way I'm headed right now."

Davenport moved up one place to overtake Amelie Mauresmo, who spent about a month at the top. The Frenchwoman was just the second player to reach No. 1 in the WTA rankings without winning a major.

Davenport first led the rankings in October 1998, then his brief stints in 1999 and 2000, last holding the spot in January 2002. She leads the tour in match victo-

ries this season with a 61-8 record and in titles with seven.

She wasn't able to add to her major titles (1998 U.S. Open, 1999 Wimbledon, 2000 Australian Open), but Davenport did reach the semifinals at the U.S. Open and Wimbledon this season, eliminated by the eventual champion each time.

At Flushing Meadows, Davenport lost to Svetlana Kuznetsov in three sets, hampered by a left hip injury.

"Mauresmo is second, followed by three Russians: French Open champion Anastasia Myskina, Kuznetsov, and two-time major runner-up Elena Dementieva. Justine Henin-Hardenne, No. 1 until Mauresmo replaced her Sept. 13, tumbled from No. 3 to No. 6."

Sorenstam rallies past Park
PALM DESERT, Calif. — Anni-



Green Bay Packers wide receiver Javon Walker (84) hauls in a 50-yard pass in front of Detroit Lions cornerback Fernando Bryant (25) in the second quarter Sunday.

from matching their win total from last season.

Browns 34, Bengals 17: Jeff Garcia threw four touchdown passes — one a 99-yarder to Andre Davis to tie an NFL record — and the Browns overcame their sloppiness for a home win over the inept Bengals.

William Green rushed for 115 yards and Lee Suggs caught a 59-yard TD pass in the fourth quarter from Garcia as the Browns (3-3) moved to 3-0 at home for the first time since 1973. The Bengals fell to 1-4.

Garcia, called "skittish" by Browns coach Butch Davis after a loss in Pittsburgh last week, overcame two interceptions in the first half and finished 16-for-23 for 310 yards in his eighth career four-TD game.

Bills 20, Dolphins 13: Takeo Spikes returned an interception 11 yards for a touchdown, helping spark Buffalo's victory in a home game against the NFL's last two winless teams.

Aaron Schobel had 2½ sacks and Ron Edwards added two, leading a strong defensive effort in which the Bills (1-4) limited Miami (0-6) to just 212 yards net offense.

Willis McGahee had a strong debut in his first career start. The Bills' first-round pick in the 2003 draft had 111 yards rushing and put away the game with a 31-yard run that allowed the Bills to run out the clock.

The former University of Miami star missing his entire rookie season recovering from reconstructive surgery on his left knee.

Redskins 13, Bears 10: Clinton Portis had his best day since changing teams, and Washington throttled Chicago's inept offense.

Ending a four-game losing streak, the Redskins (2-4) sacked struggling Bears quarterback Jonathan Quinn three times in the final three minutes before Sean Taylor's closing-second interception sealed the victory.

The Bears (1-4) managed only 160 yards total offense and crossed midfield just three times.

Portis had failed to reach 100 yards in any of his previous four games for Washington, which obtained him in an offseason trade from Denver. He had 103 by the half on 21 attempts Sunday, including a twisting 19-yard run midway through the second quarter. He finished with 171 yards.

Jaguars 22, Chiefs 16: Byron Leftwich threw two touchdown passes, including a 14-yarder to Cortez Hankton with 45 seconds to play to lift the Jaguars.

Leftwich also ran for a score as the Jaguars (4-2) snapped a two-game losing streak and won in the final minute for the fourth time this season.

Davenport delays retirement after reaching No. 1

The Associated Press

Back to No. 1, Lindsay Davenport is putting retirement on hold and plans to play in next year's Australian Open.

Davenport officially moved atop the WTA Tour computer rankings for the sixth time Monday.

day and said she tentatively has worked out a 2005 schedule through March.

The three-time Grand Slam tournament champion, who's 28, said at Wimbledon that she thought this would be her final season. But a strong summer, including four straight titles and a 22-match winning streak, convinced Davenport that she can still contend.

"I was interested to hear that

actually no player has retired at No. 1, but I don't think that's going to matter at all," Davenport said in a conference call.

"I feel like I play for the opportunity and the chance to win Grand Slams. I had two chances this year at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open," she added. "I'm looking forward to going to Australia and trying to win again, and that's definitely the way I'm headed right now."

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Sorenstam rallies past Park
PALM DESERT, Calif. — Anni-

ka Sorenstam charged from three shots back over the final five holes to overtake Grace Park and win her fourth Samsung World Championship.

Sorenstam, the winner of six of her 15 tour events this year, shot a closing 5-under 67 to finish 18 under, three shots ahead of Park. The leader the first three days, Park finished with two bogeys for a 73.

Despite gusting winds, Sorenstam had a 4-under 32 on the back nine en route to her 54th career victory.

Sorenstam took sole possession of the lead for the first time in the tournament on the 17th hole when she sank a 6-foot birdie putt on No. 17. She chipped in a 40-footer from the fringe for an eagle 3 on the par-5, 538-yard No. 15 to catch Park at 17 under.

Loirena Ochoa (70) finished

third at 13 under, and defending champion Sophie Gustafson (71) was another two shots back in fourth.

Castrovese wins IRL finale

FORT WORTH, Texas — Helio Castrovese had a great restart with two laps to go after a lengthy caution and held off IndyCar Series champion Tony Kanaan to win the season finale Sunday at Texas Motor Speedway.

While Castrovese got to climb the fence to celebrate his first victory this year, Kanaan capped off a season in which he ran all 3,305 laps — the first driver in a major American series to complete every lap.

Kanaan clinched the series title with a runner-up finish in California two weeks ago. He finished outside the top five only once, and the Chevy 500 Sunday was the sixth time this season he was second across the finish line.

NFL scoreboard

American Conference

East	W	L	T	PF	PA
New England	4	0	0	1,000	129
N.Y. Jets	5	0	0	1,000	129
Buffalo	4	0	0	1,000	129
Pittsburgh	4	0	0	1,000	129
Indianapolis	4	0	0	1,000	129
Jacksonville	4	0	0	1,000	129
Tennessee	4	0	0	1,000	129

North	W	L	T	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	4	0	0	1,000	129
Cleveland	4	0	0	1,000	129
Cincinnati	4	0	0	1,000	129
Denver	4	0	0	1,000	129
San Diego	4	0	0	1,000	129
Kansas City	4	0	0	1,000	129

West	W	L	T	PF	PA
San Diego	4	0	0	1,000	129
San Francisco	4	0	0	1,000	129
Seattle	4	0	0	1,000	129
Los Angeles	4	0	0	1,000	129
San Francisco	4	0	0	1,000	129
San Francisco	4	0	0	1,000	129

National Conference

East	W	L	T	PF	PA
Philadelphia	4	0	0	1,000	129
Dallas	4	0	0	1,000	129
Washington	4	0	0	1,000	129
Atlanta	4	0	0	1,000	129
Atlanta	4	0	0	1,000	129
Atlanta	4	0	0	1,000	129

South	W	L	T	PF	PA
Atlanta	4	0	0	1,000	129
Atlanta	4	0	0	1,000	129
Atlanta	4	0	0	1,000	129
Atlanta	4	0	0	1,000	129
Atlanta	4	0	0	1,000	129
Atlanta	4	0	0	1,000	129

North	W	L	T	PF	PA
Minnesota	4	0	0	1,000	129
Detroit	4	0	0	1,000	129
Chicago	4	0	0	1,000	129
St. Louis	4	0	0	1,000	129
Green Bay	4	0	0	1,000	129
Green Bay	4	0	0	1,000	129

West	W	L	T	PF	PA
St. Louis	4	0	0	1,000	129
Green Bay	4	0	0	1,000	129
Green Bay	4	0	0	1,000	129
Green Bay	4	0	0	1,000	129
Green Bay	4	0	0	1,000	129
Green Bay	4	0	0	1,000	129

Monday's games	W	L	T	PF	PA
Buffalo 20, Miami 13					
Houston 20, Tennessee 10					
Atlanta 21, San Diego 10					
Washington 21, Chicago 10					
N.Y. Jets 21, San Francisco 14					
Philadelphia 21, Cincinnati 10					
Philadelphia 21, Carolina 8					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, New Orleans 13					
Atlanta 21, Carolina 10					
Atlanta 21, Carolina 10					

Monday's game	W	L	T	PF	PA
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					

Monday's game	W	L	T	PF	PA
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					

Monday's game	W	L	T	PF	PA
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					

Monday's game	W	L	T	PF	PA
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
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San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
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Monday's game	W	L	T	PF	PA
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					

Monday's game	W	L	T	PF	PA
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
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San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					

Monday's game	W	L	T	PF	PA
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					

Monday's game	W	L	T	PF	PA
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					

Monday's game	W	L	T	PF	PA
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					
San Francisco 21, Dallas 10					

Third Quarter	W	L	T	PF	PA
Buff-Lindell 41, 11-18					
Buff-Campbell 5 pass from Bledsoe (Lindell kick), 7:43					
Fourth Quarter	W	L	T	PF	PA
Mia-FG Bryant 28, 14:57					
Mia-FG Bryant 20, 7:57					

First downs	W	L	T	PF	PA
Buff-Lindell 41, 11-18					
Buff-Campbell 5 pass from Bledsoe (Lindell kick), 7:43					
Fourth Quarter	W	L	T	PF	PA
Mia-FG Bryant 28, 14:57					
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Mia-FG Bryant 20, 7:57					

Fourth Quarter	W	L	T	PF	PA
Sea-Alexander 9 run (Stevens pass from					
Sea-Kick 7:43					
Fourth Quarter	W	L	T	PF	PA
NE-FG Vinatieri 30, 6:43					
NE-FG J.Brown 31, 3:01					
NE-Dillon 9 run (Vinatieri kick), 1:55					

First downs	W	L	T	PF	PA
Sea-Alexander 9 run (Stevens pass from					
Sea-Kick 7:43					
Fourth Quarter	W	L	T	PF	PA
NE-FG Vinatieri 30, 6:43					
NE-FG J.Brown 31, 3:01					
NE-Dillon 9 run (Vinatieri kick), 1:55					

Sacked-Yards Lost	3-8
Punts	3-38.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-0
Penalties-Yards	6-50
Time of Possession	28:23
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS	
Rushing—Seattle, Alexander 16-77, M	
2-16, Strong 3-9, New England, Dillon 23	

Culpepper sets record with 5 more TD passes

BY MARY FOSTER

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Daunte Culpepper was just not without Randy Moss.

Minnesota's quarterback threw five touchdown passes for the third time this season — an NFL record — to lead the Vikings past the New Orleans Saints 38-31 Sunday night.

"It's all about stepping up," Culpepper said. "Accepting the challenge and doing whatever it takes."

Moss, who leads the NFL in TD catches, injured his hamstring in the second quarter after making two receptions for 89 yards and a touchdown. It was the 10th consecutive game with a touchdown catch for Moss, who changed into a track suit and watched the second half from the sideline. "He's a little longer without my man," Culpepper said. "But he's a soldier. He'll be back."

Despite stiff pressure from the Saints, Culpepper completed 26 of 37 passes for 425 yards and all those scores. It was a career high in passing yards for Culpepper, beating his previous record of 396 yards against Oakland on Nov. 16, 2003.

"In all my time in the NFL, I've never seen a quarterback this hot," said Saints cornerback Ashley Ambrose, a 13-year veteran.

The Vikings (4-1) had 605 yards of offense and converted eight of 11 third downs.

Culpepper, who also threw two interceptions and was sacked twice, has completed just over 72 percent of his passes this season, throwing for 1,766 yards and 18 TDs.

Rookie running back Mewelde Moore had another big game for Minnesota, rushing for 109 yards and catching seven passes for 78 yards.

"I had to stay calm and make sure I was focused," Moore said. "I had fun out there."

Nate Burleson had six receptions for 134 yards for Minnesota.

New Orleans' Aaron Brooks completed 22 of 38 passes for 249 yards and a touchdown. He was intercepted once. Deuce McAllister ran for 78 yards and two touchdowns on 18 carries.

A pass-interference call against Ambrose set up the Vikings' first touchdown, giving them a first down on the 1. On the next play, Culpepper hit Jermaine Wiggins for the touchdown.

Minnesota got its first interception of the season, preventing New Orleans (2-4) from scoring and setting up the Vikings' second score. Culpepper hit Moss in the end zone on a 43-yard play, making it 14-0 less than a minute into the second quarter.

The Saints recovered a fumbled snap and scored on a 2-yard run by McAllister that made it 14-7.

Marcus Robinson caught a 16-yard touchdown pass to give the Vikings a 21-7 lead. Then the Saints put together their best drive of the half, going 73 yards in four plays, with Brooks connecting with Joe Horn for a 7-yard touchdown.

The Vikings opened the second half with Culpepper throwing a 9-yard touchdown pass to Wiggins for a 28-14 lead.

"He's a great QB," Saints coach Jim Haslett said. "We just didn't make any plays, and he made some fantastic plays."

On fourth-and-3 on their 28, the Saints lined up in punt formation, then snapped the ball to blocking back Fred McAfee, who scampered 53 yards to the Minnesota 19. McAllister finished it off with a 1-yard run, making it 28-21.

A 39-yard field goal by Morten Andersen stretched the Vikings' lead to 10 at 31-21 at the end of the third quarter. John Carney kicked a 45-yarder to pull New Orleans to 31-24 early in the fourth period.

Culpepper led the NFL with a 126.0 passer rating going into the game, threw his last touchdown pass to Robinson, making it 38-24.

Brooks then scrambled 5 yards for a touchdown to pull the Saints to 38-31 with 2:51 left. But Minnesota kept the ball the rest of the way.



Minnesota Vikings quarterback Daunte Culpepper (11) tosses a pass in the third half over New Orleans Saints linebacker Sedrick Hodge (52) Sunday night. It was the third time this season Culpepper threw five TD passes in a game, an NFL record.

Raiders pose no challenge for Broncos

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Jake Plummer hit his targets, Reuben Droughns hit his holes, and Denver's defense hit everybody in sight.

The Denver Broncos walked into the Oakland Coliseum with a swagger rarely seen in their anything-can-happen rivalry with the Raiders, and it was well deserved.

Plummer passed for 190 yards and three touchdowns. Droughns ran for 176 yards and a touchdown, and the Broncos took command of the AFC West with a 31-3 victory Sunday.

"We just pounded them in the third and fourth quarter. The quiet was nice," Plummer said.

Job Pultz, Dwayne Carswell and Ashley Lelie caught first-half touchdown passes from Plummer, who led the Broncos (5-1) to a 28-point cushion in the third quarter and 444 total yards. Droughns had his second straight 100-yard game, a week after running for 193 yards in a victory over Carolina.

His 38 carries were a franchise record for a non-overtime game.

"After my performance last week, I didn't want anybody to doubt I could do it again," said Droughns, who scored on a 4-yard run in the third quarter. "They were definitely frustrated. Any time you pound the ball and break tackles, they're going to get worn out a little bit."

Oakland's Jerry Rice, disgraced with his limited role, didn't



Oakland's Ray Buchanan, left, and Danny Clark try to stop Denver's Reuben Droughns during their game on Sunday in Oakland, Calif.

catch a pass for the third time this season and the second straight week. The 42-year-old Rice, who asked for a trade last week, considered this the most devastating loss of his career.

"This is probably the worst one because I felt like we weren't in the ballgame. We can't let teams jump up on us," said Rice, who heard fans chanting "Jerry! Jerry!" as the clock ticked away in the final minutes. "I just hope nobody is basically going to throw the towel in, and we keep working hard in practice."

Denver's defense was suffocating, holding the Raiders' inept offense to 145 yards. The Raiders (2-4) don't keep track of negative statistics in the media guide, but it was surely one of the most embarrassing performances in franchise history.

"We never get tired of dominating someone," Denver safety John Lynch said. "We were talking about it every day in the huddle in the second half. 'Keep them down, keep them down, keep them down.'"

CONTRA COSTA TIMES/KEIT

Steelers capitalize on Cowboys' error

BY KRISTIE RIEKKE

The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Bill Parcells warned the Dallas Cowboys about how good Ben Roethlisberger could be.

Pittsburgh's rookie quarterback was as good as advertised.

"He's going to be the rookie of the year," Cowboys defensive end Greg Ellis said after Roethlisberger led the Steelers to a 24-20 comeback victory Sunday. "He has the physical and mental talent that you need."

"To be that young and that good, you have to credit him for that."

Roethlisberger rattled the Cowboys for 21-of-25 passing and two touchdowns to become the first rookie quarterback to go 4-0 since Phil Simms did it in 1979 with the New York Giants. The former Miami of Ohio star also became the first Pittsburgh quarterback to win in Dallas since Terry Bradshaw in 1982.

"I can't say enough about him," Steelers coach Bill Cowher said. "I thought this would be a good test for him and it was."

The Cowboys also made another huge mistake that led to another loss.

A fumble by quarterback Vinny Testaverde late in the game set up the Steelers' winning touchdown. After Pittsburgh recovered, Jerome Bettis scored from 2 yards out to cap a short drive.

The Cowboys had all week about Roethlisberger's abilities, even comparing him to a young Dan Marino.

But they were going to be an outstanding quarterback," Parcells said. "He's got great poise. I haven't changed my mind about that."

Roethlisberger's teammates were impressed, too. "He can flat-out play," receiver Plaxico Burress said. "I think Parcells was right."

Roethlisberger had a 5-yard touchdown pass to Burress in the first quarter as he rolled out of the pocket to elude the rush and rifled the ball into the end zone.

On his 7-yard TD pass to Jerome Tuman early in the fourth, Roethlisberger withstood the pressure in the pocket waiting for Tuman to get open.

The rookie had nine straight completions on the Steelers' last two scoring drives and 11 in one stretch.

Roethlisberger, who was sacked three times, said his right knee was hurting during the game. But he stayed cool under pressure to make the key plays against a tough pass rush.

"I had nothing to plant or push off of," he said. "I could not throw off my back leg. They were very fast and physical, and they came after us."

The Cowboys (2-3) led 20-10 entering the fourth quarter.

Testaverde was 23-for-36 for 284 yards and a touchdown but also fumbled twice, including the costly late turnover.

"It was a big play — one big play — and one big reason we lost," he said. "It's unfortunate." The Cowboys had a chance to win it in the final second after going 30 yards on a fifth pass and a lateral, but Testaverde's last toss to the end zone was incomplete.

Dallas' inability to finish another game is the latest concern for Parcells as his team has routinely made critical mistakes.



Seattle Seahawks' Koren Robinson drops a pass in the first half in front of New England Patriots' Tyrone Poole during their game at Gillette Stadium, in Foxborough, Mass.

Pats hang on for 20th win

BY HOWARD ULMAN
The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — Tom Brady sat on the grass with a dazed look, his helmet nearby after a hard hit. His teammates were concerned about the quarterback who led them to 19 straight wins.

Brady strapped his helmet back on and eventually threw a big completion. New England's defense stopped Seattle's comeback. And just like that, the Patriots extended their NFL record for consecutive wins, including the playoffs, with a 30-20 victory over the Seahawks on Sunday.

"You hate to see the guy that's making all the calls and is responsible for leading our offense get banged around like that," tackle Matt Light said.

The Patriots were leading 20-9 when Brady was jarred by Michael Boulware, and Rocky Bernard recovered the fumble on the first play of the fourth quarter. On the Patriots' next possession, Brady threw an interception to Boulware that set up Shaun Alexander's 9-yard run, Seattle's only touchdown, and a two-point conversion cut the lead to 20-17.

"I felt fine," Brady said. "You just sort of pop up, run over to the sideline, get your bearings and figure out how you are going to go back on the field and tackle it the

next time. And then, obviously, I didn't do a great job."

He made up for the interception with a 48-yard pass to Bethel Johnson on third-and-7 with 2:45 left in the game that put the ball at Seattle's 12-yard line. Three plays later, Cory Dillon scored his second touchdown on a 9-yard run, and the Patriots led 30-20 with 1:55 to play.

Had the Patriots punted there, Seattle would have had plenty of time to try for the winning points. The Seahawks challenged Johnson's diving catch, but the officials ruled he had control of the ball before it hit the ground.

"I think he made a great catch," Seattle coach Mike Holmgren said. "I really said that play differently than the referee."

Catch or no catch, Dillon had no doubt what the play meant.

"That's a big-time catch," Dillon said. "Without the catch, who knows?"

Without it, the Patriots (5-0) might have lost their shot at the record for consecutive wins in the regular season. They tied Chicago's record of 17 straight in 1933-34 and can break it at home next Sunday against the New York Jets, also 5-0.

"I'm respectful of what history says," New England coach Bill Belichick said, "but it's more important [that] we beat Seattle and try to keep pace with the Jets."

Seattle (3-2) is tied for the NFC West lead with St. Louis, up against Tampa Bay on Monday night. In their previous game, the Rams beat the Seahawks 33-27 in overtime after trailing 27-10 for six minutes left in the fourth quarter.

"We've just had a couple of slip-ups," Seattle cornerback Marcus Truitt said. "There's still a lot of season left."

The Seahawks stumbled early when Matt Hasselbeck, who had thrown two interceptions in his first five games, threw two in their first two series. They led to Dillon's 1-yard scoring run and the first of Adam Vinatieri's three field goals, a 40-yarder. The Patriots made it 17-0 on Brady's 6-yard touchdown pass to David Patten and led 20-3 after scoring on their first four possessions.

"We came out red jittery in the first half," Holmgren said. "Against a team like New England, that's a pretty tough road to go to."

Still, the Seahawks cut the lead to 23-20 with 3:01 left on Josh Brown's fourth field goal, a 31-yarder. An intentional grounding call against Hasselbeck on that series hurt their chances for a go-ahead touchdown.

"I threw it thinking someone was going to peel out" toward the ball, Hasselbeck said. "That was not the big play that I thought. There were 20 plays ahead of that one."

Pennington fires up Jets to stay unbeaten

BY ANDREA ADELSON
The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Jonathan Vilma heard about the Jets' quest to make history before he played in his first professional game.

Back in May, Vilma remembered coach Herman Edwards preaching about the need to make something positive happen for the franchise.

The rookie linebacker helped make it happen Sunday.

Chad Pennington keyed a second-half rally, and Vilma sealed it with an interception, guiding New York to a 22-14 victory over San Francisco.

Though the Jets struggled in the first half, they made it to 5-0 for the first time in their 45-year history.

"It means a lot," Vilma said of the 5-0 start. "We have been talking about it for the longest time, and we have just been executing and playing."

The Jets have feasted on weak opponents so far, beating teams that are a combined 6-22. Things get much harder next Sunday, when they play at undefeated New England.

They certainly made things hard on themselves against San Francisco (1-5), which came in with an overtime victory over rivalry Arizona. The Raiders stepped out to a 14-0 lead, but defensive coordinator Donnie Henderson cut his crew going after coming down from the coaches box to the sideline, and Pennington got the offense moving with a fiery half-time speech.

"That's the maddest I've ever seen Chad," said running back Curtis Martin, who had 111 yards on 25 carries and two touchdowns, while passing Marcus Allen for eighth place on the NFL's career rushing list with 12,282 yards.

Pennington finished 20-of-30 for 222 yards, giving 11-for-14 for 110 yards in the second half. After halftime, the Jets shut out the 49ers and limited Tim Rattay to 93 yards passing. Rattay finished 18-of-28 for 286 yards with a touchdown and an interception.

Edwards said the pressure of making team history weighed on his players.

"We were kind of lethargic for

some reason," Edwards said. "That can happen. There was a lot of pressure on this team all of a sudden to win five games. That was looming. In the second half, we adjusted and were able to come back and win the game."

The Jets began their comeback in the third quarter when LaMont Jordan capped a 91-yard run with a 17-yard scoring run. On their next series, Pennington went to work again, leading the Jets 70 yards. Martin scored from the 1 to give the Jets the lead. New York failed on both 2-point attempts.

But San Francisco had two good chances to take the lead, trailing 15-14.

The 49ers got the ball at their 38 with 7:38 to go and drove to New York's 27 before Arnaz Batte the fumble from Rattay on an end-around and lost 8 yards, knocking them out of field goal range.

Then, with the ball on the San Francisco 35 with 1:44 remaining, Vilma picked off Rattay's poorly thrown pass, ending any hope of a rally. Martin added a 9-yard touchdown run for the final margin.

"We've got find a way to win," San Francisco coach Dennis Erickson said. "We've got to make plays at the end. We're finding a way to not make plays."

They certainly made them in the first half. Rattay threw a beautiful pass down the sideline to Brandon Lloyd, who easily ran in a 33-yard touchdown to make it 7-0.

The Niners scored again on their next drive when Rattay found Batte for a 65-yard reception to the Jets 2. Kevin Barlow scored on the next play for a 14-0 lead.

Now San Francisco has to deal with more injuries going into the bye week. Guard Justin Smiley (knee bruise), cornerback Ahmed Plummer (high strain), Barlow (shoulder), fullback Terry Jackson (toe sprain), Lloyd (calc bruise) and tackle Scott Cragg (hip bruise) were hurt, but Erickson said none of the injuries are considered serious.

As for the Jets, they are happy to save the historic victory for just one night.

"It's a big deal," tackle Jason Ferguson said. "But the season doesn't end at 5-0."

Sunday's NFL stars:



Quarterbacks

■ Daunte Culpepper, Minnesota, completed 26 of 37 for 425 yards and five touchdowns in a 38-31 victory over New Orleans.

■ Jeff Garcia, Cleveland, was 16-of-23 with 310 yards and four touchdowns in a 34-17 victory over Cincinnati.

■ Byron Leftwich, Jaguars, threw for 286 yards and two touchdowns, including a 16-yard toss to Cortez Hankton with 46 seconds to play, lifting Jacksonville past Kansas City 22-16.

■ Ben Roethlisberger, Steelers, completed 21 of 25 passes, threw two scoring drives in a 24-20 comeback win at Dallas.

■ Trent Green, Chiefs, was 23-of-33 for 315 yards and two touchdowns, but Kansas City lost 22-16 at Jacksonville.

Running Backs

■ Reuben Droughns, Broncos, rushed for 176 yards and a touchdown in a 33-17 win against Oakland. Droughns ran for 193 yards last week against Carolina.

■ Curtis Martin, Jets, ran for 111 yards and two touchdowns in a 22-14 victory over San Francisco. His fourth 100-yarder this year.

■ Clinton Portis, Redskins, carried 36 times for 171 yards in Washington's 13-10 victory at Chicago.

■ Shaun McGhee, Bills, rushed for 111 yards in his first NFL start, lifting Buffalo to a 20-13 win over Miami.

■ Cory Dillon, Patriots, ran for 165 yards and two touchdowns in New England's 20th straight victory — 30-20 over Seattle.

Receivers

■ Koren Robinson, Seahawks, caught nine passes for 150 yards but it wasn't enough for Seattle, who lost 30-20 to New England.

■ Lee Suggs, Browns, caught five passes for 100 yards — including a 69-yard touchdown pass — to help Cleveland reach the mark.

■ Chad Pennington, Jets, threw for 222 yards and an interception. Suggs also ran for 19 yards in the 34-17 victory over the 49ers.

■ Donald Driver, Packers, had nine receptions for 110 yards and two touchdowns in Green Bay's 38-10 victory over the Bears.

■ Johnnie Morton, Chiefs, had 111 yards on seven receptions, but Kansas City lost 22-16 at Jacksonville.



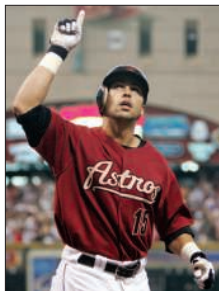
SPORTS



USC, Miami atop
first BCS standings,
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Beltran blast evens NLCS



Carlos Beltran reacts after hitting the game-winning home run in the seventh inning against the St. Louis Cardinals.

Homers in record fifth straight playoff game

BY BEN WALKER
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Julian Tavaraz must have forgotten about Carlos Beltran when he said the Cardinals didn't think the Houston Astros were so special.

Beltran struck again Sunday, homering in a record fifth straight postseason game and lifting the Astros over St. Louis 6-5 to even the NL championship series 2-2.

"There's no better feeling," he said. Before Game 1, the excitable Tavaraz upset the Astros with this assessment: "We don't look at the Houston Astros like this is a great team. They are good, but we are better than them. We are the best because we've got 108 wins. We've proved it."

Right now, no one's better than Beltran. He launched a tiebreaking shot off Tavaraz in the seventh inning into the Houston bullpen, reaching way down to golf a 2-2 slider over the right-field wall. "Barry Bonds is the best hitter in base-

ball. I don't think he could have hit that pitch," Tavaraz said. "I can't believe he hit it."

Beltran ensured the teams will go back to Busch Stadium to settle who goes to the World Series. Meantime, there's Game 5 Monday night, with Brandon Backe starting for Houston against Woody Williams.

Beltran broke the record set by Jeffrey Leonard and tied by Juan Gonzalez in 1996 for consecutive postseason games with a home run.

He also matched Bonds' 2002 record for homers in a single postseason.

"This is as good as I've ever seen anybody swing the bat, not just Carlos Beltran," Astros manager Phil Garner said. "He's some kind of locked in."

Beltran is getting richer and richer with each swing. The switch-hitting, All-Star center fielder might be the prime free agent on the market once the season ends. At this moment, he's aiming for a ring.

"I'm just being relaxed, patient at the plate," Beltran said.

Sluggers again dominated, although not quite the way they did in Game 3 of the ALCS at Fenway Park, where the Yankees obliterated Boston 19-3 Saturday night.

Albert Pujols homered for St. Louis, then came close to a go-ahead two-run homer in the ninth against Brad Lidge. But the ball was caught on the warning track, and the Astros closer struck out Scott Rolen for his second straight save.

Lance Berkman also homered for Houston, giving the teams a combined 19 home runs through only four games.

After Beltran sent the crowd at Minute Maid Park into a frenzy, Tavaraz further angered the Astros when he threw a fast-ball over the head of the next hitter, Jeff Bagwell. They exchanged words, plate umpire Mike Winters warned against further trouble and play resumed without any problems.

SEE NLCS ON PAGE 27

Ortiz gives Boston hope



David Ortiz, right, is greeted by jubilant Red Sox teammates at the plate after his game-winning home run in the 12th inning Sunday against the Yankees extended the ALCS to a fifth game, scheduled for Monday after this edition went to press. For more on Game 4, see Page 26.



Patriots hold on while Jets rally, but both improve to 5-0 setting up AFC showdown

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Culpepper throws five TD passes for third time this season

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